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Strawberry Shake Sweet

Chapter 8 - New Year's

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SPECIAL THANKS: ARASSAR

Happy New Year (of bondage)!

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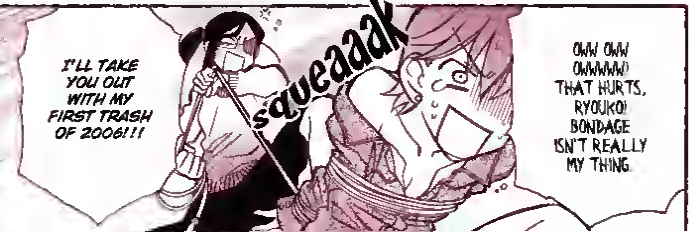

SAEKI-SAN IS EXHAUSTED AGAIN TODAY...?!
New Year's Eve
It's so cold
DO
NG...
HM?
. OH, THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S NEW YEAR'S ALREADY.
Saeki Ryouko,
manager.
Aside from her job, she's perfectly normal
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE GET NEW YEAR'S OFF
IN THIS LINE OF WORK.
I have work tomorrow.
STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

ROAA
AAR
Perfectly normal —
THE FIRST BOOK IS SELLING TO RAVE REVIEWS!
ZZZZ
And yet she's surrounded by weirdos.
Saeki
snooore
—WHAT'S SHE DOING IN FRONT OF MY APARTMENT—?
Most people would be dead by now.
She's 27 years old.
STRAWBERRY SHAKE SWEET
8th order
HAYASHIYA SHIZURU

OH, MAN!
It's cold enough to freeze your nose out there!
THAT WAS CLOSE! A LITTLE LONGER AND I WOULD'VE FROZEN TO DEATH!!
Shinjou Kaoru
She was a classmate of Saeki's back in high school. She's a beautiful girl.
...FINISH YOUR DRINK AND THEN LEAVE, ALL RIGHT?
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU GOT HOME LATE TODAY, RYOUKO.
Ah-aaaa.
FINISH YOUR DRINK AND THEN LEAVE.
But still!
I'M AMAZED I WAS ABLE TO FALL ASLEEP OUT THERE.
HM?
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING, RYOUKO?
I'M TELLING YOU TO FINISH YOUR DRINK AND THEN LEAVE IMMEDIATELY.
HMMM?
YOU JUST CAN'T BE HONEST ABOUT YOUR FEELINGS, CAN YOU, RYOUKO-CHAN—?
I CAME OVER BECAUSE I THOUGHT YOU'D BE LONELY IF YOU WERE ALL ALONE HERE ON NEW YEAR'S.
Sllrrp~
YOU MIGHT HAVE TOMORROW OFF BUT I HAVE TO WORK!!!
SMACK!

Huh?
WE-ELL,
OH, REALLY?
THE FILMING FOR HER SPRING DRAMA SERIES HAS GOTTEN TIGHT, SO SHE HAS TO GIVE UP HER NEW YEAR'S VACATION. DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
YOU MUST BE LONELY, TOO, THEN——..
YEAH, I AM.
GASP.
COME TO THINK OF IT, AREN'T YOU WITH THE WRONG PERSON, KAORU?
WHAT HAPPENED TO HARUNA-CHAN? WELL?
AS YOUR FORMER CLASSMATE, I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU
NOW YOU'RE REALLY SOUNDING LONELY. DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
Awww
Enomoto Haruna
a young idol in love with Kaoru
OH, WHAT'S WRONG, RYOUKO?
ARGH-HHH..
ARGH..
AHAHA-HAHAHA-HAHA
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, I STARTED SPEAKING AS THOUGH IT WERE NORMAL FOR TWO WOMEN TO BE TOGETHER.
dizzy
dizzy
..WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME!?
IT'S BECAUSE I'M SURROUNDED BY DEVIANTS

DON'T FREAKING LAUGH ABOUT !!!IT!!!
OUCH!
THIS REALLY IT REALLY HURTS, RYOUKO!
Who hits someone with a MUG?!
...HONESTLY! THE BOTH OF YOU ARE COMPLETELY.
ESPE-CIALLY YOU
AREN'T YOU WORRIED ABOUT THE FUTURE?
And she's one of the idols I manage too...
WORRIED?
?
Hmmm
WORRIED, HMMMM?
NOT AT ALL.
I HAVE MONEY AND A STEADY JOB.
...
I've worked enough for that.
THAT'S ALL TRUE. IT'S SO FRUSTRATING THAT I CAN'T REFUTE IT.
AND WORRYING ABOUT THE FUTURE IS HUMAN NATURE, ISN'T IT? GENDER DOESN'T MATTER.
THERE'S A SWITCH, RYOUKO
A SWITCH?

RIGHT.
WHEN THAT SWITCH FLICKS ON,
ALL YOU CAN THINK ABOUT IS HOW MUCH YOU LIKE THAT PERSON.
THEIR GENDER DOESN'T MATTER.
HARUNA-CHAN IS VERY HONEST ABOUT HER FEELINGS WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THAT,
SO I LIKE HER A LOT, TOO
...
...
SO, IT'S THE OLD "I JUST HAPPENED TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE OF MY OWN SEX" LINE?
sigh
AND HERE I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A CLICHE
OH, NO, I DEFINITELY LIKE HER BECAUSE SHE'S A GIRL.
I MEAN, I LIKE GIRLS.
I wouldn't use that sort of excuse these days!
...
SO ALL THAT BUILD-UP WAS FOR NOTHING?!
grit..
You don't have to keep telling me that!

YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN SO NAIVE, RYOUKO
HEH...
WITH THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR, LET'S OPEN THE DOOR TO A NEW WORLD!!
YOU SHOULD TRY IT, TOO, RYOUKO! THIS IS YOUR CHANCE!!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT ME TO TRY?! WHAT DOOR DO YOU WANT ME TO OPEN?!!!
BAM
DO YOU REALLY THINK I'D LEAVE A GIRL'S APARTMENT EMPTY-HANDED?
I WON'T LEAVE UNTIL I'VE GOTTEN SOMETHING FROM YOU.
I GAVE YOU SOME CONSOMMÉ NOW LEAVE!!
What do you think you're doing?!
You're not making any sense!
DUIVER
rustle
rustle
rustle
Consomme
EEK! WHY AREN'T YOU WEARING ANY UNDERWE- AAAR?!!!
whip
GET NAKED FOR ME, POR FAVOR*!
SOUP ISN'T ENOUGH TO WARM UP MY HEART.
note. "Please."
I'LL TAKE YOU OUT WITH MY FIRST TRASH OF 2006!!!
saueaaak
OWW OWW OWWWW! THAT HURTS, RYOUKO! BONDAGE ISN'T REALLY MY THING

Asakawa Ran
WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE SOME NEW YEAR'S SOBA NOODLES WITH US?!
We only got instant ones, though!
Tachibana Julia
An idol Saeki manages.
note: Japanese buckwheat noodles.
BA
SAEKI-SAAAN!
DON
rustle...
note: The Japanese text here reads "akemashite omedetou" ("Happy New Year") with "shimemashite omedetou" literally "Congratulations on your strangling."
HAPPY STRANGLING!
AGH...!
WAIT, JULIA! LET ME EXPLAIN BEFORE YOU GO!!
HEY... COME ON?!
HUH?
WE'RE GOING, JULIA-SAN?
YEAH
SO SOON?
LOOKS LIKE THE TWO ADULTS ARE GETTING UP TO SOME THINGS TOGETHER.
JULIAA-AAAAA-AAA!!!
As one girl calls out to another,
a new year of bondage dawns.
NG...
DO
note: "New year of bondage" ("kinpaku shinnen") sounds like "Happy New Year" ("kinga shinnen") in Japanese.

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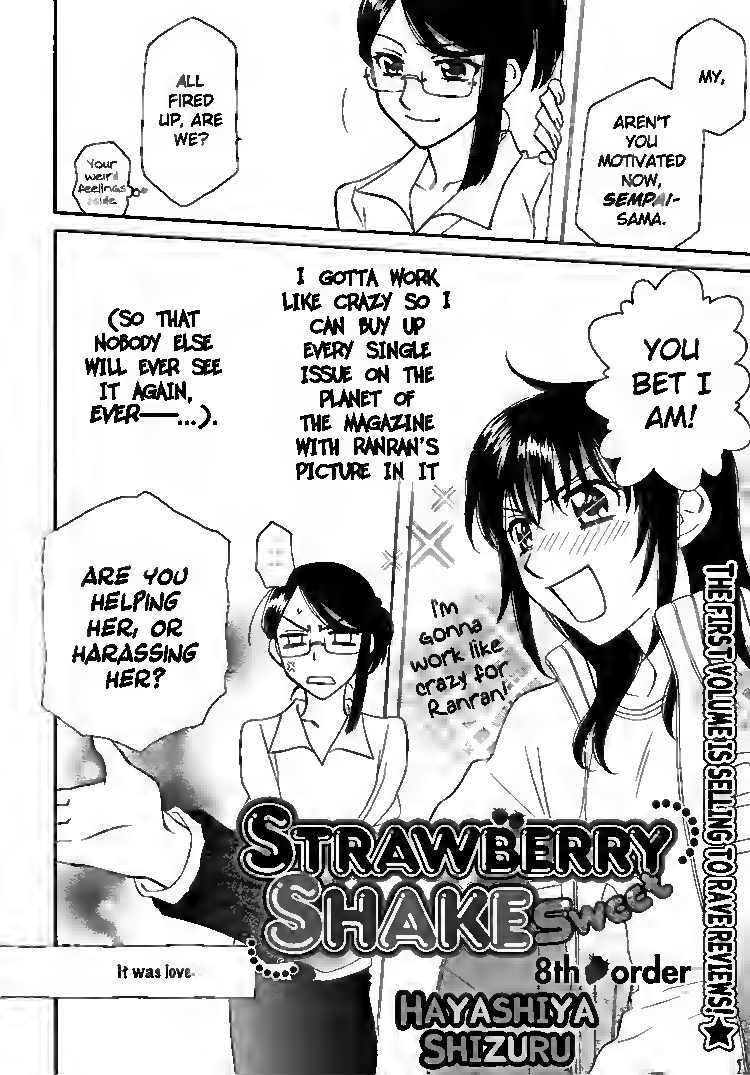
STRAWBERRY SHAKE

8th Order

STRAWBERRY SHAKE
Sweet
Spring

★This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, groups, or events is strictly coincidental

AND IT ONLY CAME OUT THREE DAYS AGO, TOO!
flop..
Yes
IT ONLY LISTS HER AS "MODEL: RAN,"
WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE PIQUED PEOPLE'S INTEREST
IT'S A PASSABLE START
SAEKI-SAN!
flop..
PLEASE
GET ME A TON MORE JOBS.
DOUBLE OR TRIPLE MY WORKLOAD.


MY,
AREN'T YOU MOTIVATED NOW, SEMPAI-SAMA.
ALL FIRED UP, ARE WE?
Your weird feelings aside.
YOU BET I AM!
I GOTTA WORK LIKE CRAZY SO I CAN BUY UP EVERY SINGLE ISSUE ON THE PLANET OF THE MAGAZINE WITH RANRAN'S PICTURE IN IT
(SO THAT NOBODY ELSE WILL EVER SEE IT AGAIN, EVER——...).
I'm gonna work like crazy for Ranran!
ARE YOU HELPING HER, OR HARASSING HER?
It was love.
THE FIRST VOLUME IS SELLING TO RAVE REVIEWS!
STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet
8th order
HAYASHIYA SHIZURU

Monthly Lilys
Editing Department
MY, MY, MY—!
YOU SURE MADE A SPLASH! IT WAS EVEN BETTER THAN WE EXPECTED.
JAPA
THINGS WERE UP IN THE AIR FOR A BIT THERE,
BUT WE WERE RIGHT TO COUNT ON YOU, MUCCHAN
NO, PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR ALL THE WORRY I CAUSED YOU...
GOOD WORK, ASA-KAWA-SAN!
YOU REALLY SAVED US THERE.
OH, NO!
I DIDN'T DO...
-Huh?!
my, you're
completely different in person!
—About the next job.
glance...

Sudou
Oh, it isn't Sudou?
Did something happen?
UNTIL NOON TODAY, RIGHT..?
drift
SUDOU-SAN SAID I ONLY HAD TO WORK
I WONDER IF SHE'S STILL AT THE OFFICE.
—SO WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU FOR THE NEXT ISSUE TOO, ASAKAWA-SAN!
U—...
Yes! Right, right!
HOW ABOUT WE GO GET SOMETHING TO EAT, THEN, MUCCHAN?
YOU'RE FREE NOW TOO, RIGHT, ASA-KAWA-SAN?
OH ..
.....
...YES,
THANK YOU.

NOT SEEING HER
MEANWHILE...
I FIGURED THAT IF I STAYED HERE, SHE MIGHT END UP STOPPING IN...
I'm sorry
Come there's even though she didn't need anything done
SO YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A WHOLE MONTH?
WHOA
THAT'S A NEW RECORD.
"Picaresque" Beauty Parlor
Well, I have to think of my position, and, er
mumble
mumble
YOU SHOULD JUST GO SEE HER!
YOU'RE SO INEPT.
DOING VISUALIZATION EXERCISES
.....
.....
WHAT'S WRONG, JULIA-CHAN?
SHE'S GOING TO FORGET ALL ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW THAT?
GULP
IF YOU LET SOME WEIRD STUBBORNNESS DRIVE YOU TO NEGLECT HER,
URK!
NO
Like a race or sports
VISUALIZATION?
ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL IN YOUR NEXT SHOOT?
THAT BITE MARK THAT WAS ON SAEKI-SAN'S SHOULDER AWHILE BACK...
Don't tell me.
IF I WERE YOU, I'D LEAVE HER WITH A MARK BEFORE WE PARTED TO MAKE SURE SHE NEVER FORGOT ME.
YEAH, SHE POPPED ME A GOOD ONE.
HMPH
OH.
DO THAT AT HOME
SO THAT I CAN COMPEL MYSELF TO SEE AN ILLUSION OF RANRAN WHEN I CAN'T SEE HER IN PERSON.
I'M GOING TO STRENGTHEN THAT PART OF MY MIND.
You'll drive all my claims' fans away!
I think I can see her now!
OH!

And that night...
——...
?
RE-.
RENA-...
...CHAN.
...
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, SERA-SAN.
They're in front of Sera's workplace, though.

I HEARD YOU MANAGED TO PULL OFF THE PHOTO SPREAD.
I FIGURED I'D COME SAY HELLO, AND OFFER YOU MY CONGRATULATIONS
Here.
"rustle"
HUH ...?!
SO YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME HERE...?
BUT YOU MADE IT SOUND LIKE WE JUST RAN INTO EA-
SNAP
Yes,
IT WAS A COINCI-DENCE!
OH! YES, OF COURSE!
It was a coinci-dence. A coinci-dence!
WOULD THIS BE MY RE-PLACE-MENT?
—SO,
WHIP
HUH?!
YE-...S, UM,
M-MY NAME IS ASAKAWA RAN...
SOUMA RENA.
A PLEA-SURE, I'M SURE.

RENA-CHAN...
SO...
I'M TRULY SORRY THAT THINGS TURNED OUT THE WAY THEY DID ..
I'M SORRY. I MEANT TO COME APOLOGIZE AGAIN, BUT...
FOR-GET IT.
THEY HAD YOUR TOUCH, MUTSUKI-SAN.
THE PICTURES WERE PRETTY GOOD.
HUH ...?
EVERY SINGLE PAGE WAS SO BEAUTI-FULLY SHOT .....
SO WHY .....
...?
SNAP
NO, NO, NO, NO! THAT WAS JUST—
ALL I DID WAS TAKE THE PIC-TURES
IT WAS ASAKA-WA-SAN WHO MADE THEM BEAU-TIFUL...!

SIGH
GIVE THEM BACK !!!
SIGH
URK...
HUU-UH?! WHAT, WHAT?!
.....
.....
What a moron! Moron, moron, moron—!
OHHH...
DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D CONGRAT-ULATE YOU?!!!
I HAPPENED TO HAVE THESE FLOWERS WITH ME, SO I USED THEM TO TEASE YOU!
WELL, GOOD LUCK WITH THE ROOKIE. YOU'LL NEED IT!!!
AGG-HH..
FLOWER
FLOWER
FLOWER
RENA-CHAN..
...I DID IT AGAIN, DIDN'T I...?
sigh

UM, SERA-SAN, WHO...
YOU PROBABLY ALREADY GUESSED THIS, BUT—
OH.
YES. I'M SORRY, ASAKA-WA-SAN.
THAT WAS THE MODEL WHO BOWED OUT PARTWAY THROUGH THE SHOOT.
THE TWO OF US DID A LOT OF WORK TOGETHER RIGHT FROM THE START.
AS YOU SAW, SHE'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL.
I'VE WANTED TO PHOTOGRAPH HER FROM THE MOMENT I SAW HER.
BUT THE MORE SHOTS I TOOK OF HER, THE LESS HAPPY I WAS WITH THEM.
...AND THAT SORT OF THING IS IMPOSSIBLE TO HIDE.
SHE FINALLY LOST IT WITH ME ON THAT LAST JOB.

Even the air-head gets it
BECAUSE YOU PRAISED ANOTHER MODEL RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER
Maybe
BE-
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I DID TO MAKE HER ANGRY...
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW, SHE MUST REALLY HATE ME.
AND
...
BUT
THAT GIRL
DIDN'T SEEM TO HATE SERA-SAN, NOT REALLY.
WHY DO I THINK THAT?
IT'S LIKE I KNOW SOMEONE LIKE HER—
Umm
...OH!
tmp

Juli...?
HUH?
OH,
...R-REALLY ...?
WHAT .....??
IF IT'S JULIA-SAN, THEN EVERYTHING'S FINE, SERA-SAN!!
So cheer up!
OHHH!
I GET IT! IT'S JULIA-SAN!
She didn't explain her reasoning.
I ENLARGED ONE OF RANRAN'S PHOTOS FROM THE MAGAZINE AND PRINTED IT OUT USING TILED PRINTING——
WELL,
I'M MAKING A LIFE-SIZE RANRAN POSTER.
I'm going to put it on my ceiling
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME, JULIA-CHAN?
We're closing now
I TOLD YOU, DO THAT STUFF AT HOME!
The real Julia wasn't fine at all.
IF SHE'S LIKE JULIA-SAN,
THAT MEANS SHE'S A GOOD PERSON!
...
OKAY..
THANKS
.....
?
?

I'LL BE ABLE TO BID FAREWELL TO THIS EMPTINESS AFTER THIS WEEK, THOUGH.
HEH...
I HAVE A LIGHT SCHEDULE NEXT WEEK, SO WE'RE BOUND TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER SOMEWHERE.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THAT WON'T STOP ME FROM MAKING THE POSTER, THOUGH.
stick
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HER!
REALLY NICE, ACTUALLY IT'S THE BEST
THE PRETTY LOOK SHE HAS IN THIS PICTURE IS NICE.
grin
BUT I WANT TO SEE THE REGULAR RANRAN, THE CUTE, SUNNY ONE WITH HAIR LIKE A BABY CHICK'S.
YOU'RE CUTE WHEN YOU'RE LIKE THIS, TOO, JULIA-CHAN.
——AHAHA.
Sunny...?

BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO?
IT'S BEEN TOO LONG. I DON'T KNOW HOW I'LL REACT TO HER.
I BET MY BODY'LL SPEW FORTH WEIRD FLUIDS AND FLY INTO THE AIR.
SIGH
O- ..
ONE MONTH WITHOUT HER IS ENOUGH TO DO THAT TO YOU...?

I HAVE SO MUCH TO TELL HER. WHERE SHOULD I START?
LIKE HOW I GOT TO WEAR SO MANY DIFFERENT OUTFITS AT THE PHOTO SHOOT...
BUT I HAVE A LIGHT WORKLOAD NEXT WEEK,
SO I'M SURE I'LL GET TO SEE HER SOON.
——I DIDN'T GET TO STOP BY THE OFFICE AFTER ALL
JULIA-SAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE.
AHHH!
WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN I SEE HEEEER?
I'VE BEEN HOLDING IT IN FOR A WHOLE MONTH!
TRY NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT'LL MAKE RYOUKO HIT YOU AGAIN

Kinnn
I SURE LIKE JULIA-SAN A LOT!
E HE HE.
I GUESS JUST SEEING HER AT ALL WILL BE ENOUGH FOR ME
Their feelings are essentially the same.
WE'LL HOLD HANDS FIRST, RIGHT?
THEN I'LL COME UP WITH SOME PRETEXT FOR HUGGING HER.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD HAVE LUNCH TOGETHER OR SOMETHING.
EVEN JUST HANGING OUT AND RELAXING IN THE PARK WOULD BE GOOD
I MIGHT AS WELL PRETEND TO HAVE AN ACCIDENT SO I CAN BID A LITTLE HELLO TO HER BOOBS AND BUTT!
THIS SORT OF CHANCE DOESN'T COME AROUND EVERY DAY. I HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT!!
...
PHEW
JULIA-CHAN, YOU'RE EVEN EMBARRASSING ME NOW.
Just go home on your own
I'LL CASUALLY DRINK IN MY FILL OF THE SCENT FROM HER HAIR AND THE NAPE OF HER NECK
but they're taking them in completely opposite directions.

However...

The following week...
SULK
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP SULKING? HONESTLY!
BUT YOU TOLD ME I WOULDN'T HAVE THAT MUCH WORK THIS WEEK.
YOU *TOLD* ME THAT
WHAT CHOICE DID WE HAVE? THEY INSISTED, SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY WEEK THEY HAVE FREE
I CAN CANCEL NOW, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT?
BESIDES, YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEE RAN-CHAN ANYWAY—SHE'S BUSY WITH HER NEXT SHOOT NOW.
You'll just have to hold on, Akemi
HEH HEH HEH.
—YOU *KNOW* I'M NOT THE SORT OF PERSON WHO BACKS OUT OF THINGS LIKE THAT
THAT'S ABSOLUTELY RIGHT.
SHWP
SO I'VE COME UP WITH A NEW PLAN.
HUH?

...WHAT'S THAT NOTE?
A NEW PLAN?
IT'S THE SCHEDULE FOR RANRAN'S SHOOT.
I GOT IT FROM THE EDITING DEPARTMENT.
ACCORDING TO THIS, SHE'S GOING TO BE JUST A HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP AWAY FROM WHERE I'M GOING.
It'll seem natural!
It's perfect!
WHEN I GET A FREE MOMENT, I'M GOING TO GO BUMP INTO HER.
THAT ISN'T BUMPING INTO HER. IT'S STALKING HER.
Meanwhile,
...
-SIGH-
I DIDN'T THINK THIS WEEK WOULD BE OUT TOO...
-SIGH-

ssh
h...
—...
I'VE GOTTA CHEER UP
I GOT MY HOPES UP, AND NOW I'M FEELING EVEN WORSE
HAVE I EVER FELT THIS LONELY BEFORE?
I WONDER WHY...?
Tachibana Julia, 16 years old, has no idea
They're shooting in a city park! Why would you expect her to be wearing a swimsuit?!!!
What'll I do if you're in a sw-sw-sw-swim-suit?!!!
PHOO
Whooo!
I'm gonna see you soon, Ranran!
that things are starting to look up for her

Strawberry Shake

9th Order

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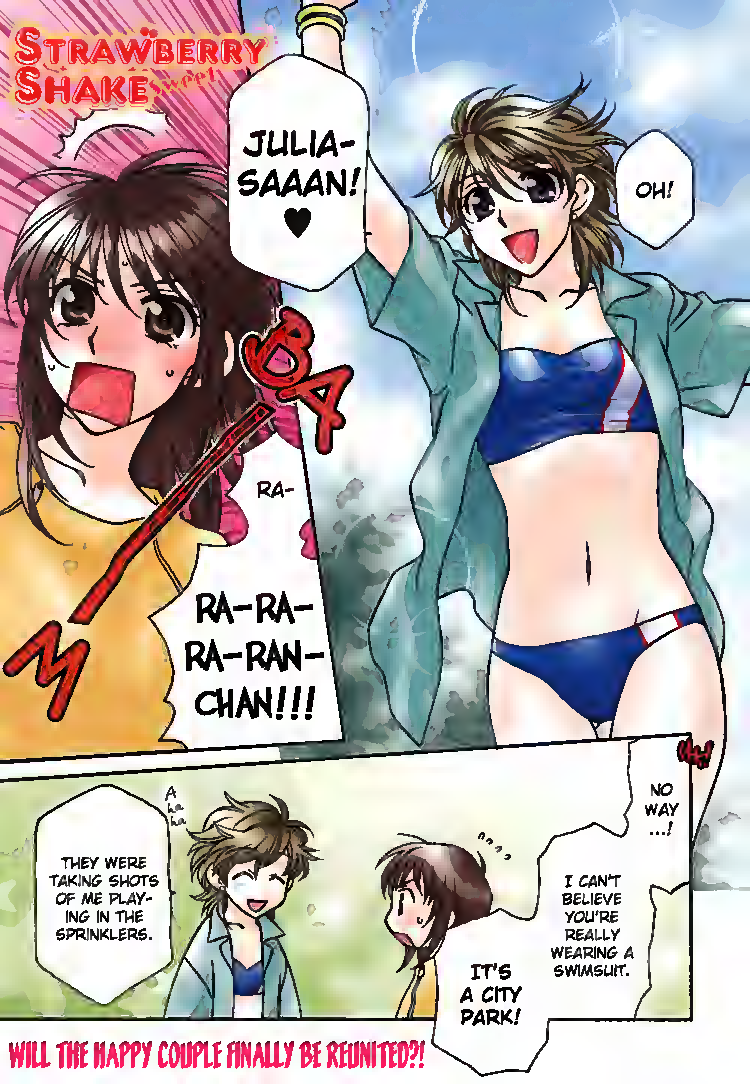
STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet
JULIA-SAAAN!
OH!
BA
RA-
RA-RA-RA-RAN-CHAN!!!
NO WAY ...!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE REALLY WEARING A SWIMSUIT.
IT'S A CITY PARK!
A ha ha
THEY WERE TAKING SHOTS OF ME PLAY-ING IN THE SPRINKLERS.
WILL THE HAPPY COUPLE FINALLY BE REUNITED?!

STRAWBERRY SHAKE sweet

9th order

AN EXPLOSION OF RED-HOT BLAZING GAGS AND LOVE THAT'S SWEEEET LIKE STRAWBERRIES!★

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It should come as no surprise that this couple is the one featured on the top page of the anniversary issue!!

林家志弦

Hayashiya Shizuru

20p

WILL THEY EVENTUALLY BE REUNITED ●_●?

——IT'S AMAZING— IT'S LIKE YOU READ MY MIND.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT I WANTED YOU TO SEE ME IN A SWIM-SUIT.
HUH...?!
..BUT
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I WANT YOU TO SEE EVEN MORE—
HUH?
HUH ..?
WHAT'S UNDERNEATH, MAYBE... JUST KIDDING.
HUH ...?
HUU-UUUH ~~~?!
N-..
WOOOOOO!
NO, HEY.. YOU'RE MOVING TOO FAST ..!!
OH, NO, RAN-RAN!!!
..
SHOULD I TELL HER TO STOP DREAM-ING,
OR TO NEVER WAKE UP?
A dream
Well, I'm glad but..

Today
RAN-RAN.
RIII-GHT !!!
SM
Attack
LET'S GET THIS PUPPY DONE!!!
RAN-RAAAA-AAN!!!
We'll use this big pot!!
RAN-RAN.
It's surprisingly savory!
Uoooow!
DONE WITH THE FIRST HALF OF THE SHOOT!!
I'M TAKING MY BREAK NOOOW!!!
Ran-ran!
Ran-ran!
Ran-ran!
HEY, YOU'RE SURE FIRED UP, JULIA-CHAN!
WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE SHOUTING, THOUGH?
...IT'S A CHANT ONLY AN IDIOT WOULD USE.
Please just ignore it.

TODAY, AT LEAST,
HMPH!
I'M GOING TO SEE HER IF IT KILLS ME!!!
NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE SAYS,
I WANT TO SEE HER, AND THIS IS MY CHANCE.
NOT GOING WOULD BE THE STUPID THING TO DO!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA
Julia
TODAY
just broke the world record for the women's 100m—10.49 seconds, set by Florence Joyner at the US Olympic Trials in 1988—by an instant.
AS IF SHE COULD REALLY DO THAT!!!
..OH! NO, WAIT—.
HEY! WAIT, JULIAAA!!!
Don't run off on your own—!

—...
Oh, dear
Sigh—
Oh...
GASP!
ER... ARE YOU TIRED, ASAKAWA-SAN?

I-
I'M SORRY FOR DRIFTING OFF LIKE THAT, SERA-SAN!
OH,
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. WE'VE BEEN GOING NONSTOP SINCE THIS MORNING, SO IT'S NO WONDER.
THE SUN'S STILL HIGH IN THE SKY— WE HAVE SOME TIME TO SPARE. LET'S TAKE A BREAK.
SLOW AND STEADY, SLOW AND STEADY.
.... ..
.. YES... ..
I'VE DONE IT NOW...
I TOLD MYSELF I WOULDN'T DRAG HER DOWN

...AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER REACH JULIA-SAN'S
NO!
ONCE I START THINKING ABOUT JULIA-SAN, I'M SCREWED.
Urgh
I HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF MY HEAD!

I-I'M EVEN HEARING THINGS NOW...!
EEP...!
RAN-CHAA-AN!!!
No it's fine. We are on break.
Oh meeeew! Sorry!
YOU'RE NOT ON BREAK?!! I'M SORRY!
Ack!
-GASP...-
HEY, RAN-CHAN—...
Oh?
MAYBE I REALLY AM TIRED...
THIS IS IT FOR ME...
Wobble

I really was just passing by, honest!
Oh, crap I got carried away
Welll, I was just passing by, and...
NAHAHAHA I'M EMBARRASSED THAT I RUSHED OVER LIKE THIS
LONG TIME NO SEE, RAN-CHAN!
Look who's here
Oh!
—
...IT'S REALLY YOU...

YES?
YES, YES, YES!
JULIA-SAN, HURRY, HURRY!
GO!
THANKS
..ASA-KAWA-SAN, COULD I...
FOR THE BREAK! I'LL BE BACK.
Dash
OH! I SEE.
.....
OHH ...
WHAT A SHAME
SHE HAD SUCH A GREAT EXPRES-SION
Wonder if I'll be able to capture it on film later
Meanwhile, Saeki
....
NGH..
Dropped out at 200m
I SHOULDVE JUST TAKEN THE CAR.....
pant
pant
wheeze
wheeze
had a great expression of sorts on her face too

HOW MUCH FARTHER ARE WE GOING?
RANRAN--RAN-CHAN?
UM...
tmp tmp
tmp tmp
GRIN
ER- UM, HOW MUCH FAR-THER.
WHOA-AAAAA!
I haven't seen that brightness in a while!
YES?
WHAT IS IT, JULIA-SAN?!
UHM!
UM!
—A PLACE WE WERE USING FOR THE SHOOT.
IT'S REALLY NICE.

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD GO THERE TO-GETH-ER.
T-
T-- T-T-T-T-T-
TO-..... GETHER ...?
YES!
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER. YOU DON'T MIND IF I KEEP YOU ALL TO MYSELF, DO YOU?
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE ALL ALONE TODAY, SO I FIGURED IT WAS MY BIG CHANCE!
WH-...
bodyn—p!
Live
Saeki-san
OH!
YOU HAVE A NOSE-BLEED!! THAT KIND OF BRINGS BACK MEMOR-IES!!!
WHY YOU GOTTA GO AN' SAY SUMTIN' SWEET LIKE THAAAAT!!!
The idiot and the airhead were so happy, a weird tension sprung up between them.

SO ASA-KAWA-SAN CAN MAKE THAT SORT OF FACE TOO...
SHE MUST BE VERY CLOSE TO TACHIBA-NA-SAN
She's not wrong.
STILL..
click
I FEEL LIKE I'VE SHOT A GIRL WITH THAT EXPRESSION BEFORE...
HM...
SOME-THING'S NAGGING AT ME, BUT WHAT?
IT WAS RENA-CHAAAN!!
YES, THAT'S IT! I RE-MEMBER NOW!!
OH...
...!

CRACKLE
AHHHH-HHH!!!
.....
WHAT SORT OF REACTION IS THAT?
It's kind of related too
W-
WEL-COME, RENA-CHAN..
W-.. WANT SOME TEA?
YOU'RE SCARED TO DEATH, AREN'T YOU?
How did you know I was here..?
PLEASE DON'T COWER LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT ANGRY.
...NY-WAY,
.....
.....
..REALLY .....?
CHICK CHICK CHICK
REALLY.
Taming a wild animal
IN FACT, I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT RE-JECTED
SHOULD-N'T OUR POSITIONS BE RE-VERSED?

..NO, THAT WAS...
BECAUSE I HAD PROB-LEMS...
AND COULDN'T SHOOT YOU ANYMORE...
...
RIGHT.
That's true but...
——WELL, I'VE GIVEN IT A LOT OF THOUGHT TOO,
AND I THINK I MIGHT HAVE BEEN TOO STIFF.
IF YOU HAVEN'T NO-TICED, IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT
NOTI-...
HUH?
OH,
NEVER MIND THAT NOW.
BUT WHAT WAS IT YOU SAID YOU REMEMBERED BEFORE?
HUH ..?!
OFF.
——
WHAT'S GOING ON—?
DIZZY
DIZZY
SOME-THING'S WEIRD.

SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN FRIENDLY,
BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT COMING HERE TOGETHER AND KEEPING ME ALL TO HERSELF?
Oh there are seats on the other bank!
AND TO TOP IT OFF, SHE HASN'T LET GO OF MY HAND
...IF I AM, THEN, BOY, ARE THEY SUCCEEDING!
I'M
NOT ON CANDID CAMERA, AM I...?
MY HEART HAS ALREADY TAKEN OFF LIKE A RUNAWAY TRAIN...!!!
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
WHOOSH
CHUGGA
CHUGGA
CHUGGA CHUGGA CHUGGA
JULIA-SAN?
Oh, I'm fine. ^_^
...I'M A PRETTY SIMPLE PERSON, THOUGH,
IF SOME-THING LIKE THIS IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY
...I SURE AM A SIMPLE PERSON.
Huh?

I WAS KIND OF DOWN BEFORE,
BUT ALL THAT GLOOM LIFTED WHEN I SAW YOUR FACE
IT'S LIKE I LIKE YOU TOO MUCH.
Never mind her heart—
JULIA-SAN—?!!
H-HUH?
...HEY,
.... SORRY,
I LEFT THIS WORLD FOR A MOMENT...
Group gymnastics?!!*
*NOTE: "KUMITAISOU," GROUPS OF TWO OR MORE PEOPLE WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE VARIOUS FORMATIONS.
it would come as no surprise if the airhead stole the very life from 16-year-old Tachibana Juiia.
THAT USUALLY MEANS SOMEONE'S IN LOVE.
Is that all?
—OH,

USU-ALLY...?
BUT IT'S AN-OTHER GIRL. SHE HAS ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR HER...?
I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT,
THOUGH WHETHER SHE'S AWARE OF HER OWN FEELINGS IS ANOTHER MATTER.
I'm gonna do my best!!
Okaaaay!
Yeahhh?
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S NOT SO UNUSUAL IN THIS DAY AND AGE.
YES.
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM AT ALL.
AND MORE IMPORT-ANTLY,
Point
THE FACT THAT YOU SAW THE SAME THING IN MY EXPRESSION THAT YOU DID IN ASAKAWA-SAN'S—
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS,
MU-TSUKI-SAN?

I know!
YOU WERE IN LOVE? WITH A MEMBER OF OUR STAFF!!!
RENA-CHAN!
Got it!
I...
THAT'S RIGHT
...
OH...!
RE-...
WHATEVER, THIS IS STILL GOOD!!!
Well,
I THINK SOME-THING'S A LITTLE OFF, BUT...
?
MY LENS!
AGH!
RENA-CHAN!
AHH...!
ER, RENA-CHAN!
Heaven and hell
SHOULD I JUST GO BACK WITHOUT HER.....?
.....
What the
And exhaustion.
strawberry shake sweet
continued

ストロベリーシェイク Sweet
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Strawberry Shake Sweet

Chapter 10

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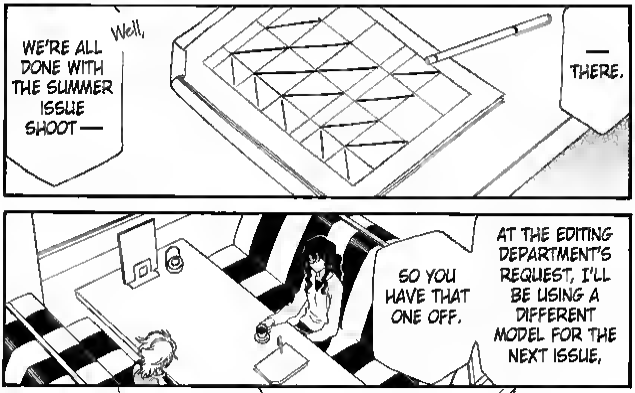

Well,
WE'RE ALL DONE WITH THE SUMMER ISSUE SHOOT—
—THERE.
SO YOU HAVE THAT ONE OFF.
AT THE EDITING DEPARTMENT'S REQUEST, I'LL BE USING A DIFFERENT MODEL FOR THE NEXT ISSUE.
YOU'RE DONE FOR THE MOMENT, ASAKAWA-SAN. NICE WORK!
Oh
...ALL RIGHT.

STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

10th order

OH...!
NO, NOT AT ALL. NOT IN THE LEAST!!
WAS THAT LAST JOB TOO TOUGH?
WHAT'S WRONG, ASAKAWA-SAN?
S-g-n
.....
LIRK...
AFTER JULIA-SAN CAME TO THE SHOOT.....
Yesterday
Um, ... ACTUALLY
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT AT ALL, YOU KNOW THAT?
HM?
HER PEAK
YOU ACTUALLY REACHED YOUR PEAK THEN-- THAT WAS YOUR BEST EXPRESSION YET.
I'M TRULY SORRY.
during the first half of the shoot, too
And I was spacing out
TOO CAUGHT UP IN MY OWN HAPPINESS TO FOCUS ON MY WORK AT ALL...
I WAS...

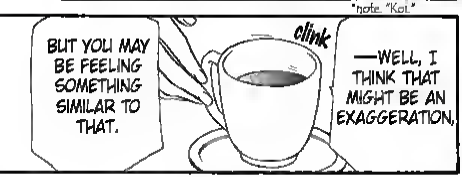
★This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, groups, or events is strictly coincidental

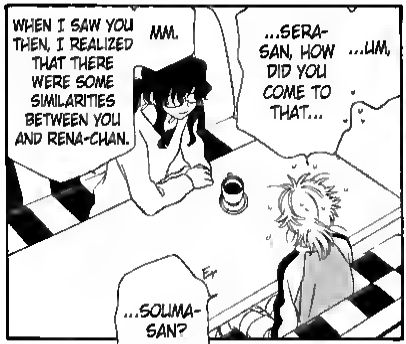
ER,
I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING.
COULD YOU EXPLAIN?
...I'M SORRY, SERA-SAN.
I'm a little slow
.....?
..... GOOD...?
AH.....
I THOUGHT... THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE. I STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO.
IT WAS... THAT GOOD...
...YESTER-DAY, IN THAT SHORT PERIOD OF TIME
BETWEEN TACHIBANA-SAN'S ARRIVAL AND YOUR RETURN,
YOU CHANGED SO COMPLETELY THAT IT WAS LIKE YOU WERE AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
YOU WERE GOOD TO BEGIN WITH, BUT AFTER THAT, YOU WERE EVEN BETTER.

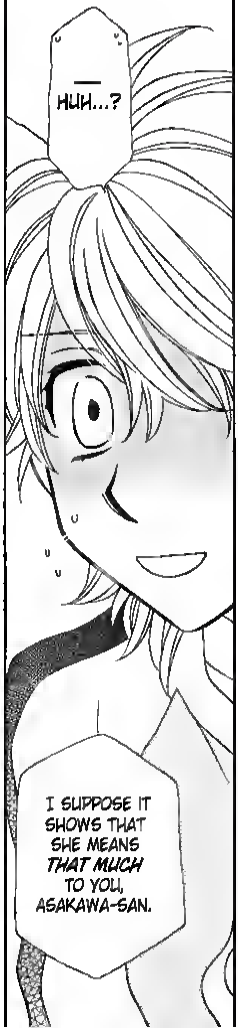
I guess I can tell you...
RENA-CHAN SAID
THAT IT WAS LOVE.
OHHHH.
OH...
MY SPIRITS SUDDENLY LIFTED WHEN SHE APPEARED...
IT MUST BE THANKS TO JULIA-SAN, THEN.
YES, EXACTLY.
WHEN YOU'RE WITH HER, THERE'S AN EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN FROM YOU BEFORE.
IT'S TACHIBANA-SAN.

C-
Carp..?*
NO, "KOI" AS IN "LOVE."
flap
flap
How cliche.

*note: "Koi."


clink
—WELL, I THINK THAT MIGHT BE AN EXAGGERATION,
BUT YOU MAY BE FEELING SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THAT.


MM.
WHEN I SAW YOU THEN, I REALIZED THAT THERE WERE SOME SIMILARITIES BETWEEN YOU AND RENA-CHAN.
...SERA-SAN, HOW DID YOU COME TO THAT...
...UM.
Er
...SOUMA-SAN?

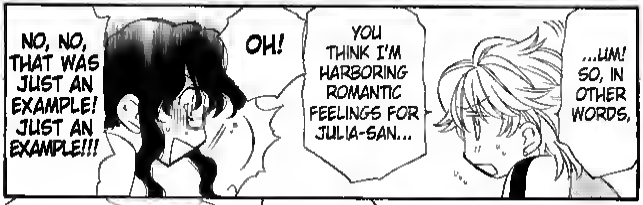

—
HUH...?
I SUPPOSE IT SHOWS THAT SHE MEANS THAT MUCH TO YOU, ASAKAWA-SAN.

I UNDERSTOOD THEN.
AFTER ALL, I'VE SEEN THAT EXPRESSION OF RENA-CHAN'S HEAD-ON--
Which face Shuma-san?
So it's not Julia-san
IS THE EXPRESSION THAT YOU ONLY SHOW IN FRONT OF THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.
In short,
WHAT YOU TWO HAVE IN COMMON
SHE SAID SHE'S IN LOVE...
What is it?

RENA-CHAN ONLY LOOKS LIKE THAT WHEN SHE'S WITH ME...
.....
Not factoring anymore.
AND NOT THE FISH KIND, EITHER.
"KOI".
WHEN I THOUGHT BACK ON IT, I REALIZED IT WAS TRUE.

...IT'S ONLY WHEN SHE'S..... WITH ME.
...HM?

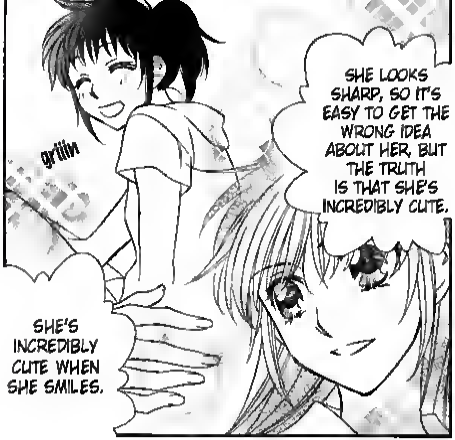
tremble
.....OH.
That's right
(....
That would mean...
Waaait what?
Eeeeep eep eep eep ee-eeeep!!!
tremble
tremble
tremble
tremble
The dimwit who can't process this fact correctly.
The dimwit who's just realizing this now.


NO, NO, THAT WAS JUST AN EXAMPLE! JUST AN EXAMPLE!!!
OH!
YOU THINK I'M HARBORING ROMANTIC FEELINGS FOR JULIA-SAN...
...UM! SO, IN OTHER WORDS,

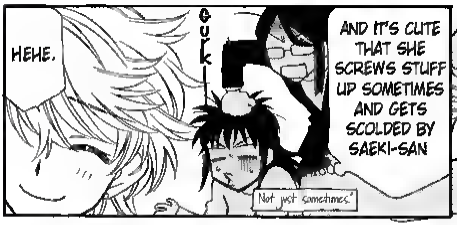
I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO, SO I'LL BE GOING NOW!!
OH, SORRY!
NOOO, IT COULDN'T BE THAT AT ALL! THERE'S NO WAY, NO WAY!! IT USUALLY ISN'T!
whoosh
HUH?!!
THERE WAS JUST THAT SORT OF FEELING, THAT SORT OF VIBE!
You know?!
IT MIGHT NOT BE THAT AT ALL.
OKAY?!!
You understand, right?
She doesn't understand at all.

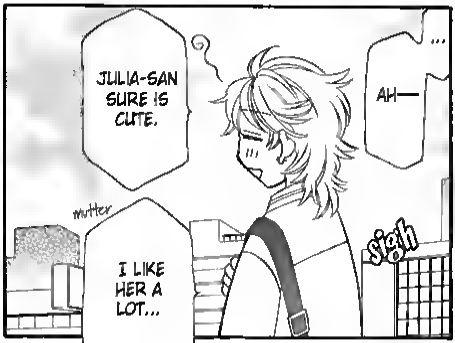
WELL, SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT SHOOT!!!
I'LL PAY, SO YOU JUST RELAX AND TAKE YOUR TIME.
HUH..? BU-
twip
twip
twip
twip
twip
twip
SERA-SAN —?!!
Running backwards
She ran off
Oh
CHECK-MATE.
HUH?
clink
YOU'RE TALKING AND COMING UP WITH LYRICS ALL AT ONCE. COULD YOU PICK ONE OR THE OTHER?
should be buried by a horse and, shedding her crimson tears into a silver goblet, dance in a golden castle.
WELL,
A girl oblivious to another girl's feelings
I don't know which parts to write down.
The syllables don't match up.
They were there.
I TOLD YOU, STOP MIXING THEM TOGETHER!
You're stupid-colored, Ryu.
is the sound they play a dark gray requiem or a rose-colored rhapsody...?
Those who dwell in this fragile world we call "normal-ity"...
WELL, THEN —

Thank you!!
And so..
.....
THAT I MIGHT FEEL LIKE THAT ABOUT JULIA-SAN.
THE THOUGHT NEVER EVEN CROSSED MY MIND...
TH-
wobble
JUST SEEING HER IS ENOUGH TO LIFT MY SPIRITS,
heeeey
Wellll, hey, hey
THAT'S RIGHT!
TO ME, JULIA-SAN IS--
SERA-SAN MADE A WILD LEAP IN HER REASONING
LOVE ...


grilin
SHE LOOKS SHARP, SO IT'S EASY TO GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT HER, BUT THE TRUTH IS THAT SHE'S INCREDIBLY CUTE.
SHE'S INCREDIBLY CUTE WHEN SHE SMILES.

SHE'S FUN,
SOMEONE I CAN RESPECT, COOL,
DEPEND-ABLE, EN-COURAGING,


HEHE.
guk
AND IT'S CUTE THAT SHE SCREWS STUFF UP SOMETIMES AND GETS SCOLDED BY SAEKI-SAN
Not just sometimes.


JULIA-SAN SURE IS CUTE.
mutter
I LIKE HER A LOT...
...
AH—
Sigh

NICE...

thud
HUH....
OH?
I like her a lot.
When I can't see her, I'm lonely.
When she smiles at me, I'm happy.
Even though it was just a misunderstanding,
back when I thought Julia-san was in love with someone...
what did I think about it?
Hahaha
Indifferent

I'm in love with Julia-san.
What do I do?
dizzy
pi
pp
.....
.....
NOW, AFTER ALL THIS TIME, I.....
WHAT DO I DO.....?
.....
I EVEN HELD HER HAND YESTERDAY...
TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HER KINDNESS, CLINGING TO HER...
BUT I'VE BEEN TAGGING ALONG AFTER HER ALL THIS TIME,
...SURE, IT'S TRUE THAT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT BEFORE...

ba m
If she thinks it's gross or something...?!!!
...What I I do
Eep eep eep eep eep
Apparently it doesn't bother her that she likes someone of the same sex.
stagger
...HEH.
HEHEHE. I SEE...
Meanwhile, someone else is..
stagger
IT WAS ME, RENA-CHAN.....
NO WONDER YOU GOT MAD...
THE THINGS I DID UP UNTIL NOW WEREN'T OUT OF ANY SHAMEFUL FEELINGS...
JULIA-SAN...
Apparently that doesn't apply to the future
...I NEED...
I NEED TO MAKE SURE...
stagger
AND I NEED TO PUT HER MIND AT REST...

I KNEW I WAS THICK,
BUT I DIDN'T THINK I WAS *THIS* BAD...
What do I do...?

THOUGH, "I'M SORRY FOR BEING THICK," SOUNDS WEIRD.....
whrr
...I WANT TO APOLOGIZE SOONER RATHER THAN LATER.

WELCOME BACK, MUTSUKI-SAN.

AFTER ALL, SHE...
Mutsuki-san?
Do you know what that means,
GAVE ME A HUGE HINT YESTERDAY...
STUPID...

DOESN'T THAT TIRE YOU OUT-- ALWAYS BEING SURPRISED LIKE THAT?
.....
sho—ck
I'M NOT READY YET—!!!

K-chk
I'VE RETURNED...
.....
.....
.....
g100m
At a stalemate.
HERE.
IT'S TO MAKE UP FOR THE ONE I BROKE YESTERDAY.
A CAMERA.
...WHAT?
HUH?
A disposable ...?
WELL, I APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT
OH!
WELCOME BACK, RAN-CHAN!
ATSUKO

I FINISHED IT THIS MORNING, Y'KNOW?
The recording
HUH?
DON'T YOU HAVE A RADIO RECORDING TO DO TODAY?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JULIA-SAN?
WH-
I'm not ready—!!
AHAHA...
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'D MAKE ONE OF US COVER THE PHONES
EVERYONE'S IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM RIGHT NOW FOR SOME SORT OF URGENT MEETING
I'm waiting for Sasha-san.

Please read the top and bottom separately.

We'll now begin broadcasting simultaneously.

WELL, THIS IS PERFECT TIMING--
I BROUGHT BACK SOMETHING FOR YOU.
c'mon, c'mon.
Here,
YES?
CAKE FROM A SHOP IN THE BASEMENT OF THE RADIO STATION BUILDING.
I HEARD YOU'D BE STOPPING BY TODAY, SO I WAS GOING TO LEAVE IT HERE FOR YOU.
BUT I'M GLAD I GOT TO GIVE IT TO YOU IN PERSON INSTEAD.
WHOA...

WHAT I WAS
TRYING TO TELL YOU?
...I'M TRULY SORRY.
I NEVER NOTICED,
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE ALWAYS
TELLING ME
THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER

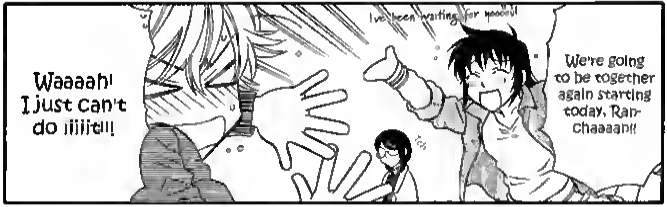
...These are all my favorites.
Right then!
WELL, LET'S EAT THEM TOGETHER!
NOBODY WILL BE COMING BACK JUST YET,
SO WE CAN SWIPE A LITTLE OF SAEKI-SAN'S SPECIAL BLACK TEA!
It'll be our secret!
bau—mp
JULIA-SAN EVEN REMEMBERS LITTLE THINGS LIKE THAT...
I like cookie. I like ones
They're carved into her brain.

I FINALLY REALIZED
THAT THE ONE... YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH...
...IS ME.
glare
.....
...ER.
What's up, Ebi...
AND JUST GET TO THE POINT.
...SPARE ME THE LAME SPEECH,
YEEES, I'M SORRY!!
KYOHAH
AAAAA
AAR

End of simultaneous broadcast.

I didn't respond strangely did I? My face didn't turn red or anything, right?
For a second there, I thought she was saying she was in love with me...!
LIKE THAT WOULD EVER HAPPEN!
Th-...
...that was clooooooose—!!!
Ugh—
dmp
dmp
dmp
I reciprocated her love "as a friend," right—?!

The direction of the wind changed, but they still missed each other



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—SIR...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT
THEY'RE PUTTING PRESSURE ON US?
Ucc
AT THIS POINT IN TIME, EVEN I CAN'T BE SURE, BUUUT...
...HMMM-MMMMM.
CAN YOU TELL US THE STATE OF THINGS OVER THERE—?
—WHAT DO YOU THINK, SUDOU? YOU'RE THE CONTACT PERSON IN THIS CASE
—I... RIGHT—....
I THINK THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE LOOKED AT ME SO SERIOUSLY, SAEKI-SAN.
WHAT HAVE YOU GONE AND GOTTEN YOURSELF CONTAMINATED BY?
TWI
TCH
CLENCH

I SUPPOSE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE FOR THE TIME BEING.
Sigh
WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY SORT OF CONFIRMATION.——
AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY,
MAKING A FUSS OVER IT NOW WOULD ONLY MAKE HER NERVOUS
You don't mind using a mug, right?
I can't find the saucer.
...
BLOWING AWAY THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD, AN IDOL IN THE PRIME OF HER YOUTH AND BEAUTY

Volume 1 is in stores now!!

STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

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林家志弦

Shizuru Hayashiya presents

chirp
chirp
chirp
chirp
.....
Hm?
I did something crazy
ARRR-GGGHHH .....
I love you
ARGH

IT'S NOT NORMAL TO SUDDENLY PROFESS YOUR LOVE TO SOME-ONE
URGH
. . SURE, I WAS ABOUT TO LOSE IT...
BUT THAT WAS BEYOND THE PALE
In my haste, I nearly ended up ruining everything
...Im glad she didn't understand what I really meant
If she had understood my real feelings
Im sure it would've caused problems for her

pant
THAT'S RIGHT —
THAT'S PLENTY FOR ME RIGHT NOW
pant
pant
pant
pant
I got a little crazy there
flail
flail
flail
I love you lots too, Ran-chan!
Thanks.
DA
ZE
.....
The substance of her "love" —
I'LL CHERISH IT—
Yeah.
I NEED TO STAY CALM.
ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED
Aaaaaa
is different
from mine, and yet
ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED—!
I wonder if I can ?
no different at all

Morning, Ran-chan!!
Act like
nothing's changed.
SPRI
NG
Hey—
Stop!! Stop right there, Julia-san!!!
WAAAH
Huuuh?!
WH-
WHAT'S WRONG, RAN-CHAN?
inch back...
Reason-destroying zone.
Nothing!
UM, UM, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT ANY CLOSER THAN THAT WOULD BE DANGEROUS

I CAN'T !!!
THE TRUTH IS, I HAVE A STYE RIGHT NOW.
IF YOU COME ANY CLOSER, YOU'LL CATCH IT.
WHA——?!!
I'LL DEFINITELY LOSE IT IF SHE COMES AS CLOSE AS SHE USUALLY DOES——!!
It's not catching.
SMACK
THAT'S TERRIBLE, RAN-CHAN!
Which eye?
IS IT SWELLING UP?
WHOA!
The convenience stoooore!!!
RAN-CHAN?
?

Hmmh...?!
so I'm going to go get a magazine from the convenience store!!!
I-I-I didn't eat breakfast before I left this morning.
Er!
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, RAN-CHAN!
YANK
thunk
Give it your all today!
.....
.....
AND YOU HAVE TO PULL THAT DOOR, NOT PUSH IT!!!
thunk
OFFICE
THAT WAS WEIRD...
What if
GASP
IT'S HARD TO TELL, BUT IT ALMOST SEEMED LIKE SHE WOULDN'T MEET MY EYES...
Hmmm
Wheee!
Julia-san
Julia-san
HER REACTION WAS A LITTLE TOO DIFFERENT FROM NORMAL.
Her normal reaction.

I love you to pieces too!!
picked up on something then....?
she
The 'Julia' in her mind.
You're the best, Hiroki!
Whaaaat? Julia-san
AGGH!
and she's withdrawing from me?!!
She's onto me.
NO,
THAT CAN'T BE IT ABSOLUTELY NOT.
I DON'T MAKE A LIVING AS AN ACTRESS FOR NOTHING.
SO MAYBE IT'S THAT.
RANRAN WAS STRANGELY ADORABLE TODAY.
MAYBE MY SECRET DESIRE TO POUNCE ON HER AND SMELL HER LEAKED OUT, AND SHE PICKED UP ON IT...
RO
WWW
MY ACTING SHOULD'VE BEEN PERFECT
ZU
You're SURE full of energy!!
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING AND YOU'RE STANDING IN THE OFFICE ENTRANCE DECLARING YOUR PERVERSION, ARE YOU?

Note: *The bad guys in the manga Shounen Esper Nejime.*

IT'S CREEPY HOW WELL-INFORMED YOU PER-VERTS ARE.
YES, THAT'S CORRECT.
DOESN'T RAN-CHAN'S SCHEDULE FOR TODAY CONSIST OF A SHOOT FOR THAT NEW AD SHE'S DOING?
HUH...?
OFF
REEL
What sort of antenna do you have?

Really, really, Saeki-san—?!!
WELL, I SURE WISH IT WAS A JOKE, BUT...
Yay! Another love♥ holiday!!!
...IT'S NOT A HOLIDAY. YOU'D BETTER WORK!!!
OH, I KNOW!
I HAVE MORE MOTIVATION WHEN RAN-CHAN'S AROUND. MOTIVATION!!
WATCH OUT, WOOOOOORLD!
SMA
.....
...I SHOULDN'T TELL HER WHAT'S GOING ON EITHER.
NO SENSE IN BORROWING TROUBLE JUST YET.

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ACT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED..
HAHA.
I'M TOTALLY DONE FOR.
Non-burnable Garbage
SPRING OSCAR PLATE
I was aching for factory even I got warned
ANOTHER SCENE LIKE THAT, AND SHE'LL REALLY START TO WORRY ABOUT ME
—I'LL CALM DOWN A LITTLE MORE AND THEN GO BACK...
IT'S STRANGE...
she started shining brilliantly
But the moment I realized I was in love with her,
Julia-san is still Julia-san
She hasn't changed.
How?
GLOW

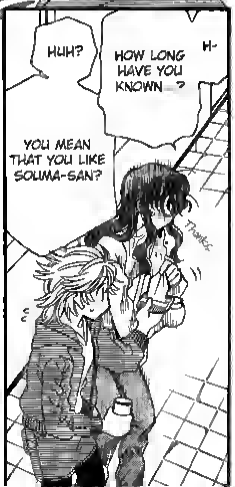
SHE'S SHINING LIKE CRAZY.
I'D HAVE NO PROBLEM SPOTTING HER IN A CROWD, EVEN ONE THE SIZE OF YOKOHAMA STADIUM
Hugh!
——But it's so bright
that I can't get close to her anymore.
...I NEVER WOULD'VE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SO ROUGH.
I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO WHEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON.
ARRG-GHH.
.....
.....
.....
I HAD NO PROBLEM HUGGING JULIA-SAN, OR HAVING HER FINGERS IN MY MOUTH
—BACK THEN,
.....
.....
.....
—Former me,
I HATE YOU!.....
—Oh! Asakawa-san?
Varik!

Ack!
Ah!!
Se-Se-Sera-Sera-Sera-Se-Sera-san?!
Oh, good. It is you, Asakawa-san.
It did look like you, but you looked so gloomy that I was worried it might be someone else after all.
Thank goodness I ran into you here.
I've been wanting to talk to you away from my co-workers.
Huh.
Wh-wh-wh-what do you need to discuss—?
Oh.
. . . So, um,
What for—?
Hm?
First off, I'm sorry, Asakawa-san.
I came here because I wanted to personally apologize for what happened
Oh.?
Asakawa-san,
Don't tell me they haven't told you yet...?

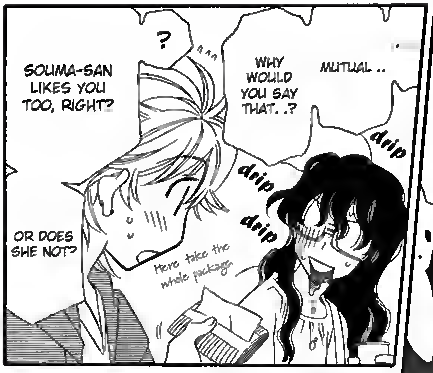
I. SEE.
SO SOUMA-SAN IS.....
Orders Open
GIRL IS MINE .26
YES
I WAS PLANNING TO STICK WITH YOU,
APPARENTLY, IT WAS A FORCEFUL REQUEST FROM ABOVE
RENA-CHAN WILL BE THE MAIN MODEL STARTING WITH THE ISSUE AFTER NEXT
135
I ASKED THEM IF I COULD KEEP YOU, AND POINTED OUT YOUR POPULARITY WITH THE READERS, BUT,
—IT'S SUCH A WASTE AND I'M SO SORRY.
OH.
NO, I'M FINE. BUT——
WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT, SERA-SAN?
YOU SAID BEFORE THAT YOU COULDN'T PHOTOGRAPH SOUMA-SAN ANYMORE—
BADUM
OH

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, SERA-SAAAN?!!
WHOA...!
DRIP
.....
OHHH!
I THINK I SHOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE PICTURES OF HER THE WAY I USED TO
WE TOOK CARE OF THE PROBLEM THE OTHER DAY, I SUPPOSE
MM
you've always liked Souma-san!!
Well, this all worked out for the best, then——
WHP
Bullseye.

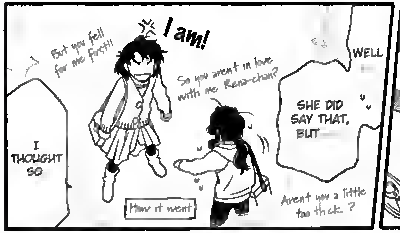
IT'S ABSO-LUTELY TRUE.
IS IT NOT TRUE?
Um
...FROM THE BEGINNING... I SUPPOSE
I could just sort of tell.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO DIDN'T KNOW——
Extremely thick
A little thick


HUH?
H-
HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN...?
YOU MEAN THAT YOU LIKE SOUMA-SAN?
Thanks

I ONLY REALIZED IT WHEN RENA-CHAN POINTED IT OUT TO ME
ALONG WITH THE REASON I COULDN'T TAKE GOOD PICTURES OF HER ANYMORE
...IT'S EMBARRASSING...
Apparently,
THERE WERE TIMES WHEN I DIDN'T FOCUS THE CAMERA PROPERLY OR LOOK THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER BEFORE TAKING A PICTURE...
I GOT TOO CAUGHT UP IN WATCHING HER...
I—
.....
THE REASON
What was it?
And I call myself a pro.
snap
snap
Aiming at random.
This is just a...
.....
snap
Ohhh.
IT WAS COMPLETELY SUBCONSCIOUS
THESE SORTS OF THINGS DO HAPPEN,
DON'T THEY..?
.....


SOUMA-SAN LIKES YOU TOO, RIGHT?
OR DOES SHE NOT?
?
WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT. .?
MUTUAL ..
drip
drip
drip
Here take the whole package

OH, I SEE NOW
SO YOU SHOWED SOUMA-SAN HOW YOU FELT A LONG TIME AGO
Your feelings were mutual right from the start!
BAM
splash


But you fell for me first!!
I am!
So you aren't in love with me Kana-chan?
Aren't you a little too thick..?
Mmm it wasn't
I THOUGHT SO
WELL
SHE DID SAY THAT, BUT

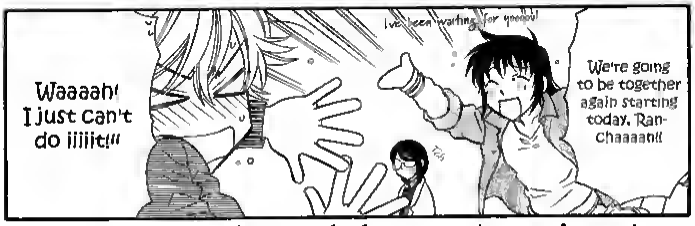
I ENVY YOU.
SHE TOLD YOU HOW SHE FELT
IT MUST HAVE MADE YOU HAPPY WHEN
OH, BUT
YOU'RE SO LUCKY

She's perceptive when it comes to other people's problems,
Well, time to get going!
but doesn't understand the girl she loves——she's 16 years old, and is a dimwit in one particular area.
BUT TACHIBANA-SAN'S EVEN MORE OBVIOUS ABOUT HER FEELINGS THAN WE ARE...
She was totally all over her.
...COULD SHE BE TALKING ABOUT TACHIBANA-SAN...?
Ehe
The pair of them give off an aura of love.
I'LL JUST KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT ABOUT IT...
...IF I GIVE HER BAD ADVICE, IT MIGHT JUST COMPLICATE THINGS...

Hey!
Won't have to meet up again tomorrow.
SEEMS TO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER FROM LILYS.
WAS SHE CONSULTING HER ABOUT SOMETHING?
——THAT...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO DO?
SHALL I HAVE THE HEAD GIVE THE EDITING DEPARTMENT A LITTLE REMINDER?
——YOU CAN JUST LEAVE HER BE.
ONE HIRED PHOTOGRAPHER CAN'T DO ANYTHING
IT'S A GOOD THING WE NOTICED WHAT SHE WAS DOING BEFORE HER CAREER COULD TAKE OFF.
IT'LL BE EASY TO NIP IT IN THE BUD IF WE DO IT NOW.
IT'S OVER FOR HER.

A SHADOW IS CREEPING CLOSER... WHO IS SHE, REALLY...?!



Strawberry Shake Sweet chapter 12

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STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

12th order

Shizuru Hayashiya

林家志弦

The 1st volume is selling to rave reviews.★

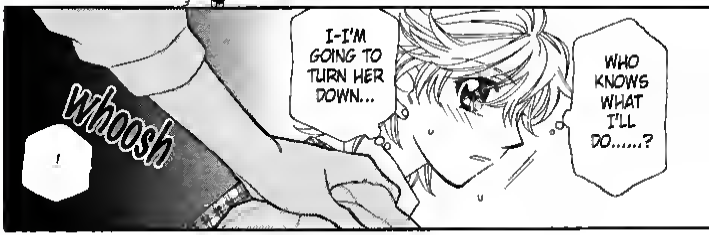
Prize
Yuri TV

Whoever she had time to spare at work.
SCRUB BRUSH!
SCRUB BRUSH!
Gulp
I'VE BEEN REFINING MY DART-THROWING SKILLS IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS DAY. I WAS DYNAMITE!
I GOT EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED--
*Note: A common booby prize in games like this.
...IT'S JUST A VARIETY SHOW PRIZE. IS IT REALLY THAT EXCITING...?
Yaaay!
WHAAAAT? OF COURSE IT IS!
A STAY FOR TWO IN THE ULTRA VIP SUITE OF A LUXURIOUS RESORT HOTEL (DINNER INCLUDED),
A 200,000 YEN* VALUE!
*Note: Around 1,890 US dollars.
YOU SKIPPED OVER ALL THE DETAILS AND JUST SAID WHAT YOU WANTED TO HAPPEN.
I'M GONNA DO THIS.....!!!
AND I HAVE A BREAK FROM WORK STARTING NEXT WEEK.
PU
FF

Skipping over some details...
.....
The next day...
Well,
BUT WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR VACATION AT THE RESORT...?
I'M SUGGESTING WE GO TOGETHER.
OH, UH,
I'M TOTALLY FREE NEXT WEEK...
Here.
Um,
JULIA-SAN...
I'M SORRY, I WASN'T REALLY LISTENING.
What were you saying?
GEEZ, RAN-CHAN.
Um,
I JUST ASKED IF YOU HAD NEXT WEEK OFF.
kacza—sh

Excuse me, could I borrow a cleaning cloth?
rattle..
ARRGGHH!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME...?
OH...!
EEEEEP! I'M SORRY, JULIA-SAN. DID ANY GET ON YOU?!
Ack ack ack ack
.....
G-
Oh!
NO, I'M FINE. CALM DOWN, RAN-CHAN!
LET'S JUST GET THIS CLEANED UP!
ark
"Go together."
..She did say that.... right?
All alone with Julia-san
overnight
and all day...
Hey there!

St-
staying overnight... ...with her...
zone out
I can't even imagine it. You'd think I'd be able to by now...
I'VE HAD TO BE VERY STERN WITH MYSELF OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS
SO THAT THINGS COULD GO BACK TO NORMAL BETWEEN US.
stiffen
YES!!
Ran-chaaan♡
Yes-m! Good work!!
I'm all alone, Ran-chaaan!
stiffen stiffen
Not normal
I'd die. .....
right...?
My heart's pounding just from thinking about it
dadump dadump dadump da


whoosh
!
I-I'M GOING TO TURN HER DOWN...
WHO KNOWS WHAT I'LL DO.....?

JULIA-SAN! IT'S ALL RIGHT, I'LL DO IT!
ACK!
LET ME. I DON'T MIND.
SURE, YOU'RE FREE, BUT THAT INVITATION CAME OUT OF THE BLUE, DIDN'T IT?
IT PUT YOU IN AN AWKWARD POSITION.
SORRY, SORRY
I got ahead of myself again
NAAAAH, IT'S MY FAULT TOO.
...I'm really sorry.....
WELL, I'LL JUST GO HAVE A LITTLE VACATION ON MY OWN
IT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO KICK BACK AND RELAX
I FAILED.
HUH...?!
...NO, DON'T!
THAT WOULD BE A WASTE...!!
grab

THAT WOULD BE LONELY, JULIA-SAN. YOU SHOULDN'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
Um, ...RAN-CHAN ....?
YOUR HAND...?
You grabbed the cleaning cloth too
Ra-
IF YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE, I'LL GO WITH YOU-- ANYWHERE, ANYTIME!
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR!!

Is that Tachibana Julia?
Inside Ran's brain
Photo-message
photo-message
THE WOLVES
ARE LOOKING
AT HER.
Unreal!
Unreal!
Careful
(scared of what to do)
...I'M SCARED OF BEING ALONE WITH HER...
IT WOULD BE
A COMPLETE WASTE!
but I'm more scared of letting her go on the trip alone.
UM,
OH...
Really?
OKAY.
Suit your taste...
Um, your hair is...
THANKS...
I have to guard her closely...!!
Julia-san is an idol.
Inside Julia's brain
Well
She's even holding my hand. Today's a memorial daaaay!!!
...Woohoooo! I don't know what happened, but it all worked out okaaay?
Inside Saeki's brain
I'M SICK OF JUMPING IN WITH WITTY COMMENTS...
...I BET THAT'S WHAT SHE'S THINKING...
We're resuming the short mooow!

foo
m
Indifferent to Saeki's concerns--though she was beginning to realize the futility of those anyway--
the airhead and the idiot go on their fateful vacation
ROAAAR
OOOOOOOH...!!
OO-...
I CAN HARDLY WAIT!
Y-YES!
WE'RE IN THAT SUITE ON THE TOP FLOOR, SEE?!
ISN'T IT AMAZING, RAN-CHAN?

...I REALLY CAME...
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT--
I MANAGED TO KEEP MY COOL ON THE TRIP HERE,
BET IT'S GOT A GREAT VIEW!
AND AS LONG AS I SQUELCH ANY BAD THOUGHTS THAT COME UP, I'LL MAKE IT THROUGH SOMEHOW.
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'LL BE SHARING A BED OR ANYTHING
OHHHHH! HEY, HEY, C'MERE A SEC!
She Just froze up
.....
A bad thought, right off the bat

HEY, IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HEY, RAN-CHAN, THERE'S A LAKE DOWN OVER—...
NO...
MY SHOELACE JUST...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME? THERE'S SUCH A THING AS HAVING TOO MUCH IMAGINATION.
IF THIS KEEPS UP, I...
I'M A PERVERT...
WELL, ANYWAY,
I'M
KINDA HAPPY.—
I'VE NEVER BEEN ON A FIELD TRIP OR ANYTHING.
I TRANSFERRED ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AT JUST THE WRONG TIME,
AND I COULDN'T GO ON MY JUNIOR HIGH TRIP BECAUSE I HAD A COLD.
I COME TO PLACES LIKE THIS A LOT WHEN WE'RE SHOOTING ON LOCATION.
BUT THAT'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM COMING FOR FUN, WITH A FRIEND.
Julia-san.

I'm sorry, Julia-san.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME WITH ME
YOU'VE MORE THAN REPAID ME FOR EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR YOU.
THANKS!
BULP
C'MON, LET'S TAKE OUR STUFF UP, THEN GO OUT AND HAVE SOME FUN!
FINISHED TYING YOUR SHOE?
WE ONLY HAVE TWO DAYS HERE-- WE GOTTA GET A MOVE ON.
OH...
Y-YES!
I'm sorry that I'm always thinking such weird stuff.

Oh, yeah, we haven't had lunch yet either!
.....
—u-
UM-- JULIA-SAN!
YEEES?
...SHALL WE HAVE A PILLOW FIGHT?
YOU KNOW, LIKE ON A SCHOOL FIELD TRIP?
...
HAHA!
pf
SOUNDS GOOD!
HOTEL PILLOWS ARE NICE AND BIG. THEY'LL BE GREAT FOR CLOBBERING EACH OTHER.
Oh,
BUT IF THEY'RE FEATHER PILLOWS, THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM. WE'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL
Whrr

RAN-CHAN SURE IS CUTE.
.. A PILLOW FIGHT, HUH?
NO CRAZY FANTASIES ALLOWED, AND NO BAD THOUGHTS
...THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS VACATION WITH HER IS PRECIOUS--- I HAVE TO ENJOY IT.
IT'LL ALL BE PERFECTLY NATURAL!
MAYBE WE'LL END UP THROWING ALL OUR CLOTHES, TOO...!!!
...WELL, AFTER WE'VE THROWN THE PILLOWS AT EACH OTHER..
RIGHT, THEN,
GONNA DO MY BEST!
The lecherous wolf
The ascetic sheep

FOR REAL? YOU'D THINK TWO WOULD BE PLENTY.
JULIA-SAN, THERE'S ANOTHER BEDROOM OVER HERE.
WOW!
It's her first time in a suite.
THEY'RE BIG ENOUGH THAT YOU'D ONLY REALLY NEED ONE.
Yeah.
ALL THE BEDS ARE HUGE.
YEAH, JUST ONE WOULD BE ENOUGH.
This place is seriously AMAZING. IT'S EVEN BIGGER THAN I IMAGINED.
WHOA.....
Ohhh
I'VE NEVER STAYED IN A ROOM LIKE THIS BEFORE.
YEAH, WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?!
RIGHT?!
aha
Ahaha..
ahahaha
WELL, WHO CARES ABOUT THE BED?
ER...
haha.
GASP...
rattle
HEY, COME LOOK AT THE SCENERY!
GOTTA CHECK THE VIEW! HAHA!!

I couldn't help but focus on the bed
dmp
THAT WAS CLOSE...
ALL RIGHT...
IT BROUGHT BACK THAT FANTASY FROM BEFORE...
dmp
dmp
COME LOOK, RAN-CHAN!
OH, WOW! YOU CAN SEE THE WHOLE SHORE FROM HERE!
dmp
It's 'cause you're incompetent Duh
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR...
WHY'D I RUN AWAY THE MOMENT THINGS GOT WEIRD?
WHAT AM I, SOME KIND OF IDIOT...?
Doing nothing is killing me.
clench
I have to tell her how I feel.
this is the ultimate location,
That's why I invited her here--
so I can rely on it to heal me if she says no
I'll bounce back in no time.

the rustic surroundings, and the fresh air, and...
I'll be able to recover and go back to work thanks to
.....
ZLAY.
...HEY,
WHA- WHOO- AHHHH!!!
OH! I KNEW
I'D HEARD THAT VOICE SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
You're a floor above me? Upstart!

I'M, UH, ON VACATION. I CAME HERE FOR FUN.
ON LOCATION FOR A TRAVEL SHOW*?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WHA- WHA- WHA- WHA-
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ZLAY-SAN?!!!

note: *Tabibangumi *Often hosted by celebrities

?
...YES, I SUPPOSE..
YOU'RE OFF WORK RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
...OKAY. COME ON DOWN TO MY ROOM FOR A BIT.
SO YOU'RE FREE, RIGHT?
DURING THE DAY, AT LEAST?
SKITK
I HAVE SOMETHING TO ASK YOU.
...THE WAY YOU SAID IT BOTHERS ME, BUT WE ARE FREE.....
UH...
YEEEES?!
But this is our special hide-alone together!!
.....
WHAT HAPPENED TO RYOU-SAN'S CHEEK...?

CONTINUED IN V10, DUE OUT 10/18.

百合姫

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ZLAY is back! But...
Well,
I KNEW IT'D LOOK GOOD—
BUT I HAD NO IDEA IT'D LOOK THIS GOOD.
—WOW.
—Tachibana Julia, 16 years old.
IS THIS FOR REAL?
...WHAT—?
ZLA—
RYOU-SAN.
Occupation: talent

They're confirming their love in goth outfits?!
WE-ELL ...
This costume is crazy
Shall I shorten the side a bit more?
YOU ACCEPTED THIS JOB, SO PLEASE DO IT SERIOUSLY.
WHAT ELSE WOULD IT BE?
Hmh.
Looks like she's about to make her visual* debut
STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet
13th order
林家志弦
Shizuru Hayashiya

*short for Visual Kei: A look made popular by some Japanese bands. Often flamboyant and androgynous, involving elaborate hairstyles and costumes.

Well,
here's how it happened.
OH!
YOU WANT US..... TO BE IN THE OPENING NUMBER OF YOUR CONCERT
TOMOR-ROW NIGHT?!!
THE DANCERS ARE BOYCOT-TING US
THERE AREN'T ANY STAND-INS, SO WE'RE IN TROUBLE.
sigh

WE DID USE DANCERS FOR IT, BUT IT'S VERY SIMPLE. THERE'S NO FANCY CHOREOGRAPHY.
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS DRESS UP AND ACT OUT A SCENARIO.
YOU TWO SHOULD DO FINE.
HUNH...
Acting is your job, right?

BUT...
THIS IS SO SUDDEN ...
RIGHT, RAN-CHAN ...?
... RIGHT.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO LEARN THE SCRIPT...

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
.....
.....
UM...
Uh.

You're really something
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROVE THE DANCERS OFF, AREN'T YOU?
I'D BE SURPRISED IF ANYONE DIDN'T KNOW.
The handprint speaks for itself.

I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF CONTACTING YOUR OFFICE
THEY SAID OKAY.
SO WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU!
URK...
HUUU-UUUU-UUUH ...?!!
ba
m

I KEEP TELLING YOU NOT TO TAKE JOBS ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT....
..DARN IT, PRESIDENT!
It's
good effort
L-...
LET'S JUST DO OUR BEST, JULIA-SAN.

So...
It turned out like this
I was wondering what sort of costume it would be
WELL, I GUESS IT'S GOOD PRACTICE, THEN
THIS REALLY ISN'T MY STYLE

Extraction
JULIA-SAN!
!!
Fix it for you
Oh, this should be a little more
LIM
Believe it or not,
she's never used them before.
LIM, DO I
LOOK WEIRD?
IN THIS ...
Sp...
Ga

ZLAY IS THE BEEEEEST!!!
YES!!!
Whoooo!
L-
LET'S GO FOR IT, RAN-CHAN —!!!
MUST BE NICE TO BE SO NAIVE.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE INTO IT NOW.
Oh, thank goodness.
Julia-san's so cute!
Ahhh! She's soooo adorable!
To an outsider they look like a couple of lovebirds

AT THE BEGINNING... YES, AROUND WHEN THE DRUMS COME IN,
AS THE CURTAIN STARTS TO RISE, YOU COME UP THE STAIRS ON EACH SIDE OF THE STAGE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE WHOLE THING NOW, SO MAKE SURE YOU CONFIRM EACH STEP DURING REHEARSAL.
You won't get a chance to practice it!
Uh-oh...
OKAY, I'LL GIVE YOU A BRIEF RUN-DOWN.
ALL DONE WITH YOUR FITTING?

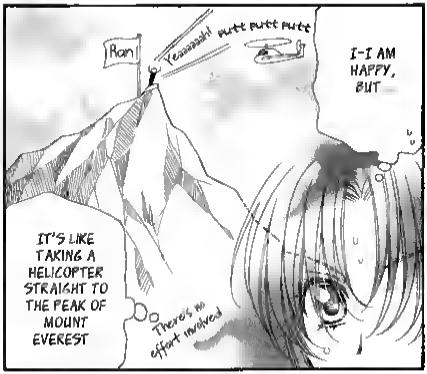
AND KISSES HER.
THEN,
AS THE LITTLE KITTY COLLAPSES, THE BIG KITTY TAKES HER IN HER ARMS
THEN THE BIG KITTY STABS THE LITTLE KITTY WITH A DAGGER.
WHEN YOU GET TO THE CENTER OF THE PLATFORM, YOU EXCHANGE GLANCES,
Don't forget your prop.
YOU'LL NEED YOUR ACTING ABILITY FOR THAT
? Am I the big cat?
Probably
So I'm gonna get stabbed

*note "Kisu" in Japanese

Order: Perciformes.
family: Sillaginidae.
Delicious when made into tempura.
Smelt-whiting.*
It's fresh!
It's just, you acted like it was no big deal, but there was something crazy in there!
No, you did...
WHAT, DID I NOT EXPLAIN IT ENOUGH?
I'd like to start the rehearsal soon, though.
Th-
THE KISS... WHO IS IT BETWEEN?
THE TRAP DESCENDS, AND THAT'S THE END OF THE OPENING.
—THEN THE BIG KITTY STABS HERSELF IN THE BREAST WITH THE DAGGER.
THE THEME IS "TRAGIC LOVE." WE'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU!
Huh?
WERE'NT YOU LISTENING?
WHO? THE TWO OF YOU.
OUT OF THE QUES-TION!!
HEEEE-EEEEE-EEY!!!!

N-NO WAY! NO!!!
An idol?!!
KISS HER.
M-me? And you?
I'LL TAKE A TRAP UP TO THE PLATFORM, AND THE LITTLE KITTY WILL RUN UP TO ME AND I'LL
WE'LL CHANGE THE PLAN
OUT OF THE QUESTION ....? You're telling me this now?
ACK!
ABSOLUTELY NOOOOOT!!!
KI-
whoosh
THE BIG KITTY WILL RUN UP TO ME AND I'LL
THEN
...WE DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, THEN.
sigh.
RYOU, YOU'VE GOTTEN OFF-TRACK.
This is just too stupid
WHO AM I SUPPOSED TO KISS, THEN?!!!!
THAT'S ENOUGH, YOU TWO!!!
Hey!
Hey, where's the set list?
Is H..his for real...?
OH, NO..
C'mon, time for rehearsal!
YOU'RE NO PRO IF YOU CAN'T EVEN DO THIS
Huh?
Huh?
Hold on.
Huh _?!
WELL, IF IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE, JUST DO YOUR BEST!
Ahaha

This is...
The costumes are being adjusted
bum
bum
bum
.....
tat
bum tat
ratatat
Oh! They've started rehearsing.
Cheering!
bu
...m...
This is outrage-ous..
right?
With Ran-chan?
A kiss?
ratatat tat
Here's where I come in stage right.
ratatat tat
What?
Mm-hmm
Visualizing


Ran!
Teeaaaahh! putt putt putt
I-I AM HAPPY, BUT
IT'S LIKE TAKING A HELICOPTER STRAIGHT TO THE PEAK OF MOUNT EVEREST
There's no effort involved

A KISS
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
ON THE L-L-LIPS?
I don't know
WHIRL
WHIRL
WHIRL

glance
RAN-CHAN

my child
Kiss her,
what do I doo-ooo?
Oh, no! Dear Lord,
I'M DWELLING ON IT TOO MUCH
THIS IS WORK
Yeah. That's no good
Mm-hmm Mm-hmm
She's just pretending to be calm.

DOESN'T SEEM BOTHERED BY IT AT ALL...
I guess
THAT MAKES SENSE, HUH?

It doesn't count, right?
If a kiss doesn't have real feelings behind it,
It's kind of
a lonely thought,
but...
roaaaaaaaaaaar
I CAN SAVOR RANRAN'S SWEET FRUIT TO MY HEART'S CONTENT...!!!
ACTUALLY, THIS COULD BE USEFUL !!
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
Yes! I'm sorry! What, what?!
Whoa!
shark
JULIA-SAN

I-
I CAN FAKE THE KISS REALLY WELL.
I'LL MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE I DON'T TOUCH YOU.....!
... HUH?
WHAT IS?
My brain?
What's all right?
I MEAN, UM,
NO..!
WHA-
WHY WOULD YOU TAKE SUCH A SENSELESS COURSE OF ACTION..?
B-BECAUSE!
tremble
tremble
tremble
WHAT?
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IT FOR REAL, RIGHT?!
YOU'VE HAD A FORBIDDING LOOK ON YOUR FACE THIS WHOLE TIME..!
I HAA-AAAA-AVE?!
Huh huh huh
Her face while she was imagining those things.

EVEN MOOO-OOOO-ORE!!!
THAT MAKES ME WANT TO DO IT
RO
ar
IT'S ALL RIGHT. PLEASE DON'T FORCE YOURSELF!
UM, THAT WASN'T 'CAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO, IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE
NO...!
flustered
flustered
flustered
YOU'RE MY FRIEND, JULIA-SAN ...
YOU MEAN SO MUCH TO ME ..!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT!
WHA-
...RIN-CHAN,
This is...
—Oh—...
JUST SO YOU KNOW...

I'm just going to tell her what's on my mind.
...YOU COULD NEVER DO ANYTHING I DIDN'T LIKE,
I SWEAR.
I don't care whether she finds out about my feelings or not now.
no good.
AND CALLING MY NAME WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY.
HUGGING ME,
JUST HOLDING MY HAND,
BUT DOESN'T IT BOFFER YEHHHHH?!!
AGH! I SCREWED THAT UP SO BAAAAAAD!!!
O-O-
AF... OF...
AF COURSE I BON'T MIND IF YOU CHISS ME!

'CAUSE YOU'VE NEVER DONE A KISSING SCENE BEFORE!
You know!
Huh...?!
I MEANT TO SAY THAT I DON'T MIND, BUT THAT IT MUST BOTHER YOU!
Oh! Nimono
.....
.....
...
BOF-FER?
NO, I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT!
Forget what I just said!
YEAH, IT'S FOR WORK, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ME AS YOUR FIRST...
Wha...
AND I'M A GIRL, TOO!!
THERE'S NO WAY, RIGHT?!!
Hold on, Julia-sa...
Assuming it's her first kiss
Oh, I'm crying now
No, I..!
I WANT TO DO IIIT!!!
NO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
bam

I WOULDN'T BE!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL
Just ignore them
Whoa they talkin' bout some crazy shit over there?
YOU SHOULDN'T FORCE YOUR-SELF EITHER, RAN-CHAN.
BADUM BADUM
.....
.....
NO..
BADUM
ALL BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO MAKE YOU HATE ME
THE TRUTH IS, I WANT TO BE CLOSE TO YOU ALL THE TIME I WANT TO TOUCH YOU WHENEVER I CAN.
flap
I'M TRYING SO HARD TO KEEP MYSELF FROM
TOUCHING YOU, HOLDING YOUR HAND, EVEN JUST GETTING TOO CLOSE TO YOU...
A SMA-...
A SMOO-...
AND A KI-...
...I'D KISS YOU RIGHT THIS MINUTE IF I COULD...!!
bam

An Incomprehension Zone
YES!
RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
RIGHT
.. R-
THIS MINUTE ...?
Oh.....
that wouldn't help, would it..? Since we're not onstage yet..?
Um.
Right ...this minute...
gasp!
I-I'm sorry! That was just an example!!
Yeees!!
su—p
We'll fix up your hair and makeup
STAND-IIINS, YOU CAN COME START GETTING READY NOW! REHEARSAL'S ALMOST OVER!
CHICKS RUUUU-UUUULE!!!
ba
m
This is just a rehearsal
RYOU,
YOU DON'T NEED TO TALK IN BETWEEN SONGS

Break a leg!
YES!
I'LL KISS YOU!!
tmp
Okay!
GOT IT. WE'LL DO THE KISS, THEN!
tmp tmp
WE'RE KINDA...
WHAT IS IT?
tmp tmp
BUT WE'RE KINDA...
WE GOT THAT MISUNDER-STANDING CLEARED UP
THANK GOOD-NESS
tmp
...Hmmm?
Oh?
.....
Where are they headed...?!
rumble...
THIS LOOKS BAD...
The sky in Tokyo.
Continued in V11

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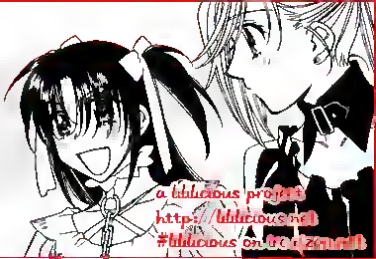


bang.
Um
Um
Um
It's getting hotter and hotter!!

bum
bum
bum
bum
林家志弦
Shizuru Hayashiya
LADY GUN-NER!!
Whooo!
Their love is racing forward!!
STRAWBERRY SHAKE
Sweet
14th order

dum..
dum..
dum..
roaaar..
bum bum bum..
rataiat tat tat buuum..
—GOOD WORK!
YOU TWO ARE ALL DONE NOW, SO YOU CAN GO CHANGE IF YOU WANT.
It's dark, so watch your step
ALL RIGHT!
Thanks.

Good work!
You too!
.....
We moved your things to another room, further in
Oh, going to change?
Oh! All right! Thanks.
badum
badum
badum
I-
I-
I did it
Crap, I really did it

I touched
Julia-san's lips
BUT
Man, was I nervous!
Freeze her brain.
Yes! I'm gonna think back on this day for as long as I live!
Wh-
oo-
ooo
ooo!
badum
Y yes!!
RAN-CHAN
whoosh
EXCUSE ME, IS THERE SOME-THING .....
Um, ... JULIA-SAN ..

YOU WERE AMAZING!
SURE, IT WAS JUST A SHORT SCENE, BUT THIS WAS YOUR FIRST TIME ON STAGE, AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN GET TO REHEARSE IT FIRST! AND YOU WENT RIGHT FOR IT, NO HESITATION AT ALL.
YOU REALLY ARE AMAZING, RAN-CHAN!
OH!
NO, I...
I WAS JUST SO ABSORBED IN IT THAT I COULDN'T WORRY ABOUT THE DETAILS...!
Ahaha
BUT THAT MEANS YOU WERE ABLE TO FOCUS, RIGHT? THAT'S GREAT!
Hmph.
I CAN'T JUST ACT THE SEMPAI WITH YOU FOREVER.
I HAVE TO PUSH MYSELF HARDER WITH MY WORK, TOO!
Hmph.

Work.
—...
I'M SORRY, JULIA-SAN.
I DON'T DESERVE YOUR PRAISE.
RAN-CHAN?
?
...WE HAVE TO... PUSH OURSELVES HARDER WITH OUR WORK.
WORK.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
TAP

HUH ...?
...WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT...?
The kiss
WAS ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT,
SO I DOUBT I WAS PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO MY ACTING.
I COULDN'T BE MATTER-OF-FACT ABOUT IT LIKE YOU WERE .....!
Argghhh!
B-
Geez!
BUT YOU COULDN'T HELP IT. IT WAS YOUR FIRST TIME, RAN-CHAN!
THAT'S NOT WHY!!
I KNEW I HAD TO HIDE THE FACT THAT YOU WERE ALWAYS ON MY MIND,
BUT THEN I HAD TO KISS YOU, EVEN THOUGH IT WAS JUST FOR WORK,
AND YOU SAID IT WAS OKAY, BUT I WASN'T SURE IT REALLY WAS!

I WAS THE ONLY ONE HAVING PERVERTED FEELINGS WHEN WE .....
I DIDN'T DO MY JOB AT ALL!
Perverted feelings?
SO...
I'M SORRY, JULIA-SAN!
I'LL GO CHANGE NOOO-OW!!!
Huh...?
RAN-CHAN —?!
Wah—

Ack! I'm sorry Excuse me
.....
.....
Smack
Whoa!
whoosh
WHAT THE HECK? WHAT DID SHE MEAN?
dmp
"You were always on my mind..."
"I was the only one having perverted feelings when we —..."
dmp
dmp
WH-
WH-
WHY IS RAN-CHAN THINKING THE SAME THINGS I AM?!!
HM?
WAIT, THE SAME THINGS I AM?
SHE'S THINKING THE SAME THINGS AS ME, THE PRESIDENT OF THE WE LOVE LOVE LOVE RANRAN FAN CLUB .....?
The sole member

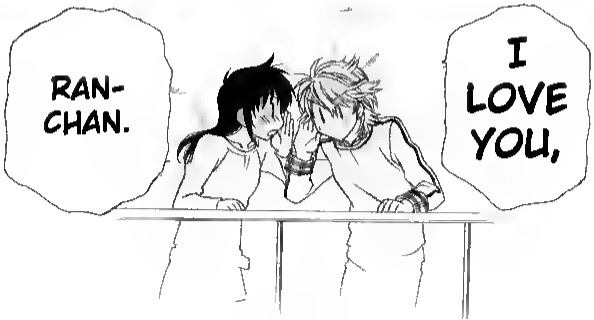
Oh
I WANT TO BE CLOSE TO YOU ALL THE TIME
I'D KISS YOU RIGHT THIS MINUTE IF I COULD—
Don't tell me

What if
I love Julia-san!
Yay, yay!
I mean, I knew something strange was going on, but..
Ran-chan...
President of the We Love Love Julia-san Fan Club
feels the same way..?
Whoa! I'm letting my imagination run away with me
Ran-chan
...
—But..
RIGHT?! DON'T YOU THINK SOOOO?!!
NO, NO, NO. THAT WOULD BE A LITTLE TOO CONVENIENT
..NO!
Huh?!
squeaaal

squeaaaa!
Watching.
stru
m
ratatat tat tat
THIS IS AWK- TH-WARD
WHAT SHOULD I DO? SHE MUST THINK I'M WEIRD
AFTER WHAT I SAID
I KEEP TELLING MYSELF THAT,
NO WAY NO WAY THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL
BUT I CAN'T HELP WONDER-ING...
I WANT TO KNOW FOR SURE, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER— !!!
ARGH! GEEZ!
squ-aaa!
Squeaaa!!
Ignoring the concert

CASUALLY
YES, YES! SUBTLY,
OH!
HEY, RAN-CHAN!
Yes! What is it?!
Gulp
Urk!
I'll just talk to her like normal— keep it casual—
and subtly try to find out how she really feels
ANYWAY, I SHOULD STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH HER.
Yeah!
WE'VE BARELY SAID TWO WORDS TO EACH OTHER SINCE WE CHANGED OUT OF OUR COSTUMES
That's even more unnatural
babuuu

I SAID—
I'M SORRY, JULIA-SAN!
THE MUSIC IS JUST SO LOUD...
ONE MORE TIME, PLEASE...
.....
.....
flap
flap
boom
bum
screeech
bap—flap


RAN-CHAN.
I LOVE YOU,

I WAS GONNA BE CASUAL ABOUT IT, BUT I JUST BLURTED IT RIGHT OUT--I THREW A STRAIGHT PITCH. I'M...
WHAT AM I, AN IDIOT?!
OH!
I'M STUPID BIMBO KOU-SHIEN*!!!
DID YOU HEAR IT THAT TIME ...?
...UH,
fret
fret
TIME, TURN BACK. TIME, TURN BACK!
...YES, I HEARD IT QUITE CLEARLY...
She's withdrawing from me. She's definitely withdrawing.
Agh! Say something, Ran-chan!!
Looks like I'll be spending the rest of this vacation alone, nursing a broken heart.
ba
Ive lost everything in a single moment...
It's over.

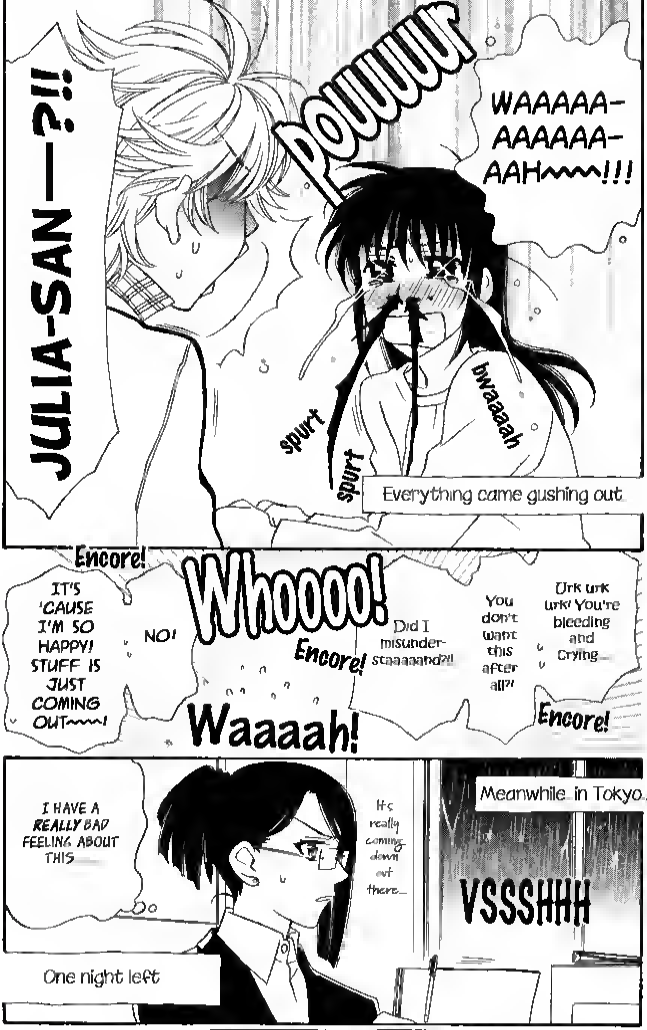
*Insite. A reference to the baseball manga/anime Total Idol (Mari) Kousien (Otoko Douhou Kousien) The main character can only throw straight pitches.

—RY...
Whooo!
JULIA-SAN.
HERE COMES MY DEATH SENT-ENCE!!!
I'm such a pervert!
YES! I'M SOR—...

Let's go! One, two, three!
With a girl by my side, I can do anything!
What character are you playing?
Who do you think you are, Antonio?
ba
squeaaa!
.....
.....
.....
Oh?
..They're the same, aren't they..?
Huh?
What?
What are?
All thought processes have stopped
How many would you like? What do you get in?
No, uh, I mean—
We love each other in the same way, right?
Our feelings for each other.

What do I do?
W-...
WE... DO?
...I LOVE YOU, RAN-CHAN,
...WE DO, RIGHT?
YES. I DO, TOO
.....
but in a sexual way, okay?
For real?
Sexual?
What do I do?

I did tell you once before, but....
I SHOULD'VE TOLD YOU FIRST.
OH. I'M SORRY, I DID THINGS OUT OF ORDER.
Was that all just a dream?!
Or a day-dream?!
WHAT?!!
OH!
Start
I GOT CARRIED AWAY, AND MY LIPS JUST ..
MUMBLE
I
LOVE YOU TOO, JULIA-SAN.
doooong
doooong
doo
.. This is really happening!
W-...
Im over-flowing..
one
two
three!
One more!
What do I do?



Will this rain (of fluids) strengthen the foundation of their relationship...?!* The tension is mounting!!

Continued in V12 due out 4/11

*note: From the Japanese proverb "The ground hardens when rained on" adversity builds character and strengthens relationships.

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Special Thanks
yy

GOOD WOOO-ORK!!
WE'RE FINALLY DONE WITH THE FIRST HALF OF THE TOUR.
Good wooork!
chatter
chatter
WE HAVE A WEEK OFF BEFORE THE NEXT CONCERT, RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TOMORROW?
GO BACK TO TOKYO FOR A MAGAZINE INTERVIEW AND TO PRACTICE IN THE STUDIO. WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO FOOL AROUND.
...OH.
chatter
RYOU SURE CAUSED US A HASSLE WITH THAT.
WE HAVE TO FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR THE DANCERS, TOO.
OH, RIGHT.
THOSE GIRLS WERE JUST TEMPORARY, HUH?
We have people coming for some more, though
I THOUGHT I SAW THEM AROUND HERE A FEW MINUTES AGO, BUT...
HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM, ANYWAY?
NO IDEA...

They made it through the concert...

THEIR FIRST KISS...
THEIR SOULS PICK UP SPEED.
ding
THE NIGHT IS JUST BEGINNING
THEY HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO THAN COME TO AN AFTER-PARTY WITH A BUNCH OF STRANGERS
They couldn't
THEY CAN HAVE A LITTLE PARTY OF THEIR OWN, AFTER ALL!!!*
WHY ARE YOU THE ONLY ONE DRINKING WINE?
Get a clue.
Get out of here fast enough!
I ENVY THEM
Just get a beer C'mon
THE JOY OF SHARING THEIR FEELINGS, THE EUPHORIA OF TOUCHING ONE ANOTHER...

コミック百合姫 Vol.13
ストロベリーシェイクの季節
想いは2人だけ これから一体どうなる?
7月18日(金)発売
定価 840円

*note: More literally "They're already flying high, after all!!!" The original joke here is that the word she uses for "afterparty" is related to one that can mean "to launch" to skyrocket" and so on

STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

15th order

林家志弦
Shizuru Hayashiya

Yes!
JERK
JULIA-SAN
OH
UH
.....

badum
Eep
...

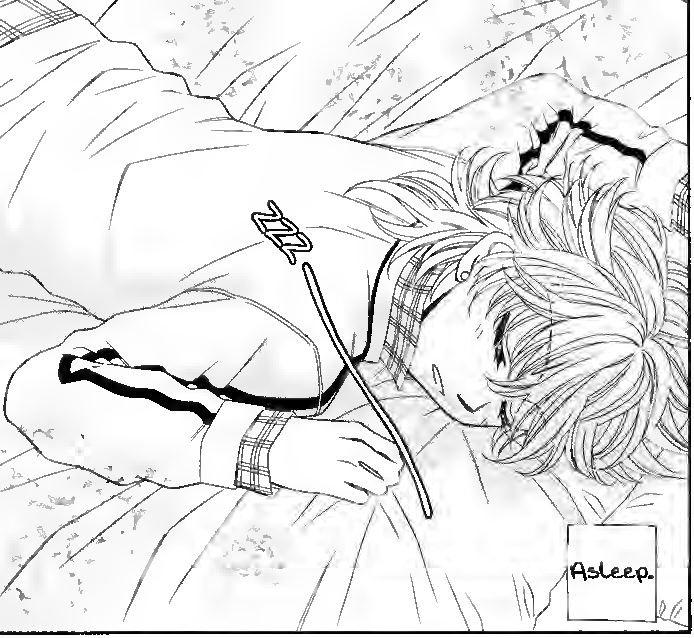
HAVE THE SHOWER FIRST
YOU CAN

The stairway to Heaven has appeared before me much too soon...
Oh!
That was fast!!!
YEAH! BUT RAN-CHAN, UH,
DON'T YOU THINK WE'RE MOVING TOO FAST? I MEAN, I FEEL KINDA BAD ABOUT IT.
YOU MUST BE TIRED, RIGHT?
I'll take mine right after you're done
PLEASE, GO AHEAD AND WASH THE SWEAT OFF SO YOU CAN RELAX!
Oh.
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
MY MIND IS ALWAYS IN THE GUTTER
This is no good
YES. YES, OF COURSE.
RANRAN WAS JUST BEING CONSIDERATE

DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
dmp
love
you too,
Julia-san."
CRAP, I WASTED THE ROSE BATH SALTS! I PAID FOR THOSE OUT OF MY OWN POCKET, TOO!!!
OH!
DMP
DMP
DMP
DMP
A pool of blood!

glbuuuuug.
glub glub glubuub
...This
SNIFF
THIS IS A SERIOUS ILLNESS. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT...
Gotta refill the tub now
GEEZ!
pop
sssshhh
...WELL...
...isn't
Just a dream.
I DID IMAGINE THAT SHE MIGHT NOT TURN ME DOWN FLAT,
BUT I NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D BE THE ONE TO...

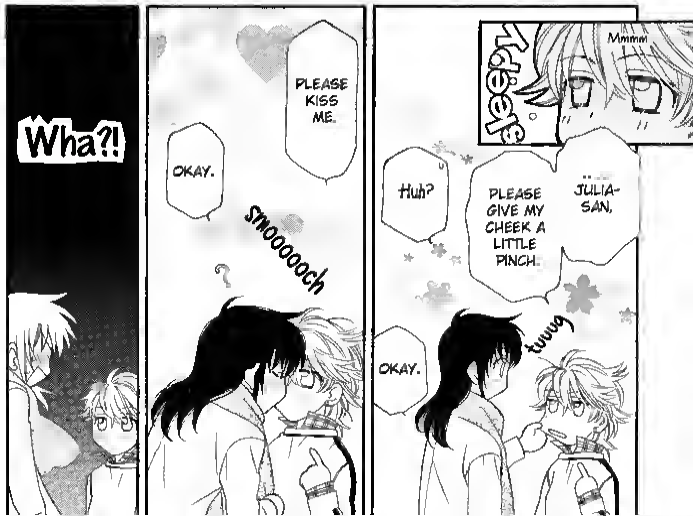
kiss me.
glub
SOMEHOW, I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER GET BINGO AGAIN.
She's been setting a new record for consecutive bingo wins!
Gotta make sure I don't get blood in it this time. Crap, crap
I'M SO HAPPY, IT'S ACTUALLY MAKING ME MORE SCARED...
glub gluuuub...
Whatever it was, impulse or not, we're past the point of no return
I'm in a race against time here
Some part of her is weak.
I'll jump her before she has a chance to get away!!!
MAYBE THIS WAS JUST A MOMENTARY IMPULSE ON RANKAN'S PART
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SITTING AROUND FEELING SATISFIED WITH MYSELF
twitch
VSSHH
grab!
here
Oh, no!!!


Asleep.

It's gotta be like this
Yeah, that's right
Scan
Scan

Well, EVEN WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE GOING OFF WITHOUT A HITCH,
SOMETHING ALWAYS GOES WRONG THERE'S ALWAYS A PUNCHLINE LIKE THIS
you're really something coming here and falling asleep
Geez, Ranran,

The algorithm has been stopped!!
God won't allow a lame punch-line...!
Morning, Ran-chan
yeah
?
WHAA-A—T?
Mm.
OH, JULIA-SAN?
IT'S THE SAME OLD PATTERN— WE WON'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ALL NIGHT...


Wha?!
PLEASE KISS ME.
OKAY.
SMOOOOOCH
Yeah
Mmmm
Huh?
PLEASE GIVE MY CHEEK A LITTLE PINCH.
...JULIA-SAN,
OKAY.
tuuuug

beam
IT REALLY ISN'T JUST A DREAM.
...Thank goodness...!
I'M GOING TO GO USE THE SHOWER NOW, IF YOU DON'T MIND!
WHEN I WOKE UP, I THOUGHT EVERYTHING HAD GONE BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.
FOR A MINUTE THERE
fwip
RAN—
HUH?
HUU-UH?!
WHA?
OHHHH. OHHHH.
.. OHH-HHH-HHHH
.....
sink in
sink in
sink in
sink in
sink in
tmp tmp tmp
HEY
thud
FWUMP

*note: "Shiawase Carnival" an opening theme for the anime Ai Shoujo Pollyanna Monogatari

When Ranran gets out of the shower,
SSSSHHHHH...
Hey, wait a minute
We haven't crossed the finish line yet!!
that's when the real battle will begin...!!!
A restless woman.

コミック百合姫 Vol.13
南波と海鈴 未登場のお姉さんがあと二人いたら完璧!?
7月18日(金)発売
定価880円

We're currently at a stalemate, Major.
Sir!
What's our status?
BUT...
If the shower restores her military force, there is a possibility that she'll jump us.
But it seems the enemy is skilled in airhead attacks.
We'll call for reinforcements
Very well
Get me the radio operator!!
Yessir!
WHAAAT? WE'RE ALREADY CLOSED FOR THE DAY.
OH?
Picaresque Beauty Parlor
Ding

Hello Haoru-san?!
OH, JULIA-CHAN?
WHAT'S UP? ENJOYING YOUR VACATION?
Excuse me, but that's the furthest thing from my mind now--I'm in real trouble here.
I need your expertise on something
AHAHAHA. MY EXPERTISE?
WHAT, ARE YOU GETTING A HAIRCUT?
UM!
WHAT SHOULD
...two girls do together?!
sssh!hh
...DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO HER ?
...OKAY, FIRST ..
SHE'S IN THE SHOWER?
whisper
whisper
Yes, good for you
...Ohhh-hhh, I SEE...

rattle
MY PHONE DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY CHARGE LEFT, SO I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH JULIA
SORRY, KAORU! BUT ARE YOU STILL HERE?
hssssssh
rattle
HAS SHE CALLED —.
click
...IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH JULIA-CHAN?
sigh
NO...
WELL, YES, BUT NOT LIKE THAT
YEAH,
SHE JUST CALLED.
SHE ASKED ME ABOUT SEX BETWEEN GIRLS, SO I FILLED HER IN.
My Goodness.
GASP...
DON'T DO THAAA-AAAT!!!
PLEASE TELL ME ABOUT IT TOO, KAORU-SAN —!!
Over and out

Well, it's not like I'm totally clueless
Do women
really do that together?
hurt hurt
Most straight and gay couples do it too
...Was she serious ...?
Meanwhile in Tokyo
You can't. The last train is already gone!
I have to go stop them right away!
...W-won't it hurt ...?
What, do I do it to Ranran?
That?
Want, do I have to do it a certain way so it won't hurt her?
fret fret fret
JULIA-SAN
poke
gurk

IT'S FINE. I HAD PLENTY OF TIME.
NO,
All troops to battle formation!!
RAN-CHAN!
Th-
the battle begins —!!!
ASAP! ASAP!!
THAT WAS AWFULLY QUICK, WASN'T IT?! YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOUR TIME!
Uh,
...DO YOU MIND IF I SIT HERE?
OF COURSE NOT! PLEASE PLEASE GO AHEAD
HUH?! OH!
silence
First shot direct hit
Ahhhh!
BOOOOM
Oh,
...BUT I MIGHT'VE RUSHED A LITTLE.
I WOULD'VE BEEN LONELY IF YOU'D GONE TO BED WITHOUT ME, JULIA-SAN...

URK!!
WHAT IS IT?!!
.....
....
FORGIVE ME FOR MY BLUNTNESS, BUT I'M GOING TO GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT
WHOA!
THAT WAS DIRECT!!!
start
I WAS PLANNING TO DO DIRTY THINGS TO YOU WHEN I GOT OUT OF THE BATHROOM.
EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET AT THE OFFICE, Y'KNOW?!
I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH YOU FOREVER, RAN-CHAN!
B-BUT
I'M ANXIOUS TO DO IT RIGHT AWAY BECAUSE I'M WORRIED YOU'RE GOING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND?!
NOTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE ABOUT THAT NOW!
I thought the same thing you did, though!
I...
I'M NOT GOING TO. OF COURSE I'M NOT GOING TO!!

IF ANYTHING WERE TO CHANGE AT ALL...
IT'D BE THAT I WAS FALLING EVEN MORE IN LOVE WITH YOU OR SOMETHING
sigh...
THAT'S THE ONLY DIRECTION I CAN GO IN...
IT'S
KINDA UNFAIR, RAN-CHAN
I'm the only one who's
WELL UP
...
JULIA-SAN.....
Ack...
drip
WHAT? WHY ARE YOU CRYING, RAN-CHAN?!!
drip
drip
drip
drip
I'm sor
I... FEEL SO BAD...
YOU HAD FEELINGS FOR ME FOR SUCH A LONG TIME,
AND I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE...
*It wasn't actually that long.

—I'M SORRY, JULIA-SAN—
It's starting?!
It's
RA-
RAN-RAN-RARAN-RAZ!!
It's
It-It-
I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE,
SO I DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF
—BUT I WANT TO DO IT RIGHT.
SO I'LL HOLD OFF ON IT FOR NOW.
JULIA-SAN, I'LL—
UM
—I'LL FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO THINGS RIGHT,
SO PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.
Ranran.

—So
NOT DOING IT ISN'T GOING TO MAKE ME LOVE YOU ANY LESS.
DON'T WORRY, ANYTIME'S FINE WITH ME.
OKAY.
Urrrgghhh
pat
pat
I'm sorry, Juta-san about everything. Uwu
sniffle
It's fine! I'm kinda relieved, too
we decided to at least hold hands while we slept.
in the end,
Yeah
And I realized something—
Good night Juta-san
ehehe.
That's still plenty of progress for tonight.

I'm the passive partner...
it looks like
N'night!
—HM?
I'm so happy, it's making me crazy.
But to be honest, I don't really care either way—
Needless worrying
HUH?
Well ...THAT'S NOT ALLOWED, OKAY...?
...YOU SAID YOU'RE GOING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO DO IT...
but
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO PRACTICE ON ANYONE ELSE, ARE YOU...?
Taxi-iiii!!!
Ahahaha-hahaha-haha.
C'MOOOOON! GIVE IT UP YOU'D GET THERE TOO LATE ANY-WAY!!
Of course it's not allowed —!!!
And in Tokyo
Continued in v13 due out 7/11.

Now we know who's the uke and who's the seme!! All that's left is for them to fulfill their roles as seme and uke...?!

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ソワソワ

She's back at work today

Saeki-san is breaking out in a cold sweat...

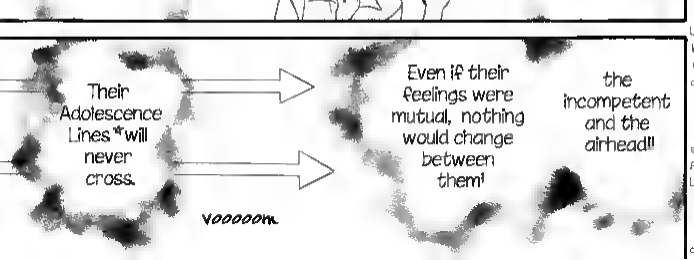
What.....

.....

But she's a pervert.

Usually, even when she's alone, she goes off into her own delusional world and starts writhing around and going on moe rants even when you haven't asked her anything. She's always breathing heavily, too. If this wasn't for my job, I'd throw her out. She's bursting with energy!! Just the sort of person I don't want to deal with when I'm tired. She's making it in the industry on looks and work ethic alone ☆

but nothing could possibly happen between those two—
how to do things with another girl!
I told her
Sure, I was worried after what Kaoru said,


Their Adolescence Lines *will never cross.
Even if their feelings were mutual, nothing would change between them!
the incompetent and the airhead!!
voooooom

*note: "Seishun Line," a song by Ikimono Gakari. The chorus goes, "We're running down the shimmering Adolescence Line, hanging our joined feelings to the end of our dreams."

SAEKI-SAN
YES... THIS WILL ALL BE JUST A BITTER-SWEET MEMORY OF YOUTH FOR THEM SOMEDAY...
mutter
mutter
mutter
Um,
...IT TURNS OUT...
Yay
Heeee.
I'M THE PASSIVE PARTNER
SLASH
Illegally driving with no hands.
Ahhh!
ooo

TABAN
HUH——? CROSS THE ..?
...DON'T CROSS THE LINE SO LIGHTLY*, YOU LITTLE SLUUUUUUT!!!
*note: The original double entendre is that the word she uses can mean "to cross" (as in, their Adolescent Lines) or to have sex
...GIVE ME BACK ALL THOSE DAYS I WASTED WORRYING ABOUT YOU! GIVE THEM BAAAAAACK!!!
HEY, YOUR PERSONALITIES SUDDENLY CHANGED, YOU GUYS!!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
HUH?! HUH?! WHAT'S WRONG, SAEKI-SAN?!
HEY, WATCH THE ROAD! YOU'RE GOING IN THE WRONG LAAAANE!!
They haven't crossed the line yet, physically

STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet

THE MUCH-AWAITED SECOND VOLUME WILL GO ON SALE THIS WINTER!!

16th order

They've almost gotten their happy ending... but is a scandal looming on the horizon?!

It's too late now
...WELL,
THERE'S NO USE CRYING OVER SPILT MILK.
...A MEETING? ABOUT WHAT...?
SO WE'RE HAVING THIS EMERGENCY MEETING
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS? ABOUT YOU TWO
RYOUKO, I CAN'T HAVE YOU
USING MY STAFF ROOM FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS
K-chk
twitch
Dryer
(shoon)
It was your weird advice that got us into this! Hey! You little...! Take that!
Yes
I'm sorry
Yes
Can't breathe
...SO NOW THAT THINGS HAVE COME TO THIS, I'LL JUST HAVE TO CHANGE MY WAY OF THINKING.
Shiiiiiiik
Wait.
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
Yikes...
skrrk

!!!
YOU TWO ARE TOGETHER NOW, RIGHT?
DON'T PLAY DUMB.
Don't make me say it
T-...
O-
OH, GEEZ, SAEKI-SAN!
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS? IT IS, RIGHT ..?
That was fast
CUT IT OUT. YOU'RE GETTING ON MY NERVES.
Ehe.
What'll we do Ren-chan?
huuuh?
T-
+-
And making me cold!
nudge
BOTH OF YOU WILL HAVE TO THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU ACT FROM NOW ON
ANYWAY, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT
WELL...

NOT EVERYONE AROUND YOU WILL APPROVE OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
AND THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN FRIENDLINESS AND CURIOSITY.
I'M YOUR MANAGER, I WANT TO NURTURE YOU.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THAT SORT OF ATTENTION—
SAEKI-SAN....
DOES THAT MEAN IT'S OKAY IF WE DO STUFF, WITHIN LIMITS?
NO, BUT I DON'T CARE ANYMORE— JUST TRY NOT TO BE OBVIOUS ABOUT IT WHEN YOU'RE IN PUBLIC!
Like holding hands
Hugging, carrying each other piggy-back, and...
Didn't you hear a word I said?
"SIIIIIGH..."
..... Y-
YOU SEEM REALLY DEPRESSED
OF COURSE I AM. I SLIPPED UP

I WAS NAIVE—I FIGURED THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEMS BECAUSE YOU WERE AN INCOMPETENT AND AN AIRHEAD
I WAS VAGUELY AWARE THAT YOUR FEELINGS WERE MUTUAL
IF THEY GO ON A PRIVATE TRIP TOGETHER, EVEN AN INCOMPETENT AND AN AIRHEAD CAN...
She called them that twice
Airhead?
Incompetent?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SLEEPING TOGETHER...!!
BUT THIS HAPPENED TOO FAST!
...ARGHHHH!!
SLEE...
?!
Geeeez!
Sl-sl-sleeping—
...What are you talking about, Saeki-san?!
YES, YOU MISUNDERSTOOD!
WE HAVEN'T YET.
ROAAAAAR
STAFF ONLY
They sure are noisy
HUH?
...YOU HAVEN'T...?
BUT...
ACTUALLY, WE CAN'T!!
WE HAVEN'T!!
OH....
Then you haven't really
Beam
Hope
Even though we want to

SLEEPING TOGETHER? NO WAY!
WE CAN BARELY CHI-...
CHUSS
EACH OTHER?! KI-...
Right?!
That's right! On the trip alone, we did it, um...
One twoooooo three four
ABOUT 15 TIMES, I THINK?!
SMA---CK
Wooooooooo!
Despair.
THE LOVE SHUTTLE HAS GONE OFF COURSE INTO UNCHARTED SPACE-
HELLO, HOUSTON.

great Spaceship Uterus....
STAFF ONLY
Row on out to the girls star ocean,
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT LAST PHRASE?
FWOOOO
THE WORLD IS ZLAY'S BACK-STAGE
YOU BARGE IN EVERY-WHERE, DON'T YOU...?
You! get re-ported
We're allowed in every-where
CLAP
RYOU-SAN
AND OVER-HEARD YOUR HEART-WARMING CONVER-SATION.
Well
Please don't groove 'em
PLEASE DON'T GROPE MY BREASTS.
WE CAME TO HAVE KAORU-CHAN CUT OUR HAIR FOR A CHANGE.

AND
WHEN WE PEEKED IN, I SAW IT WAS THE KITTIES
IT WAS GOOD TIMING—YOU CAN TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHAT YOU DID NOW
Wha—
Take responsibility for what?!
You can't eat them!
Fwoosh!
HUH?
A NEWSPAPER?
IT'S YESTERDAY'S
RYOU'S STUPID—SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU ENOUGH
Sami
flap
THIS
WHOA!
Why?
Tachibana Julia
Ran!?
20,000 Shocked
Complete Secret
THEY EVEN PUT OUR NAMES ON THERE...
It's Julia-san!
It's Ran-chan!
HUUUH? WHAT THE...? IT'S SO BIG

IT'S NICE THAT WE MADE THE FRONT PAGE MIDWAY THROUGH THE TOUR— I MEAN, IT WASN'T EVEN OPENING OR CLOSING NIGHT—
BUT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE MAIN ACT, AND YOU GOT A BIGGER PICTURE THAN WE DID
ban
ぐいーっ!
THIS IS WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY, "GIVE SOMEONE AN INCH, AND HE'LL TAKE A MILE."
TIME FOR YOU TO ATONE.
...HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? WE ONLY DID IT BECAUSE YOU ASKED US TO
LOOKS LIKE THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO DRAW A LOT OF INTEREST.
tug
tug
ESPECIALLY ASAKAWA-SAN.
That's her name, right?
Hey c'mon don't strip me either. You know? I'm at work and...
tug
THE BBS AT OUR OFFICIAL SITE IS ALREADY FLOODED WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT HER
—SO OUR COMPANY PRESIDENT LOOKED INTO IT,
AND SAID, "IF THOSE BEAUTIES ARE FREE,
THEN"
—...

Wow!
We just got a bunch more work, Ran-chan!
Yes!
I can't believe we get to work together again...
this is awesome!
AT THE END OF THE YEAR——
WE'D LIKE THEM TO BE IN A THREE-PART SERIES OF MUSIC VIDEOS FOR SOME NEW SONGS THAT WILL BE COMING OUT

"Woman of Steel."
They call her the great Salamander Queen Promotion's
I throw women down and knock men down
The company was started ten years ago. It's the star seed in the business now.
That she's under the wing of some big-shot.
We've taken that into account, of course—
Yeah.
But I wonder what Saeki-san's talking to them about.
She suddenly shooed us off...
She told us to walk to the office.
Want to take the bus?
...Are you sure it will be all right?
If your president looked into it, you should know that Asakawa is.
Yes.
But that doesn't matter to our president.
Let's ignore that and get on with the arrangements.
Your president has already been contacted directly about it.
Oh...
Mm-hmm

THEIR OFFICE REALLY IS UNBEAT-ABLE
for now... maybe
That turned out well,
OH
Eep!
WHOA!
WH-WH-WH-WHAT THE ? THAT'S SO EMBAR-RASSING!
It's something that sets peoples teeth on edge,
and you just said it out-loud
You're probably
my lucky star, Julia san
BEFORE THAT, I SPENT ALL MY TIME DOING NOTHING
I ENDED UP ENTERING THIS WORLD,
AND AS I WATCHED YOU, I STARTED WANTING TO GIVE IT MY ALL, TOO.
...AND
This really is embarrassing Geez
WELL, I'VE BEEN HAVING SO MUCH FUN
SINCE I MET YOU.

I CAN LOVE YOU FOREVER.
YOU COULDN'T FIND THIS SORT OF GOOD LUCK
IF YOU WENT LOOKING FOR IT...
.....
What..
Blllllllush
Slump
?
Juli—
—n?
Ack!
...Sorry. It just hit me. My back.....

One phone call will change their fate?!

Scanned and Translated by
Sailor Avalon

Edited by: Sachiko

Qc'ed by: The Lolz, SpaceTart, Sailor Avalon, and Tiny Snowfairy

Special Thanks: yy

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Strawberry Shake Sweet Chapter 17

ストロベリーシェイク Sweet

2

SHIZURU HAYASHIYA

林家志弦

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COMMENT

林家志弘

HIROSHI HAYASHIYA

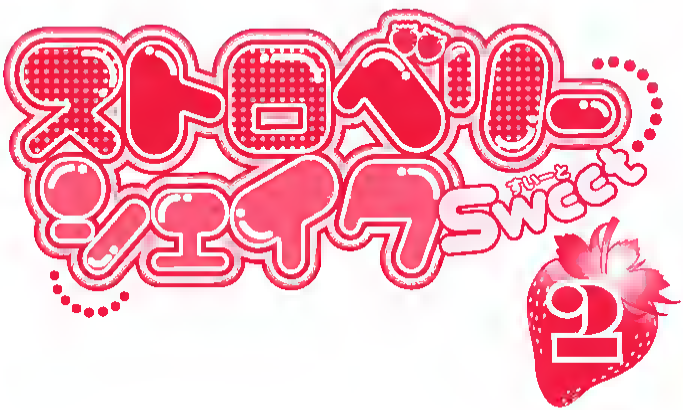
BECAUSE IT RAN IN A QUARTERLY MAGAZINE, THERE WAS A TERRIBLY LONG PERIOD BETWEEN VOLUMES, AND MY DRAWING HAS CHANGED TERRIBLY AS WELL. I USUALLY USE THE FIRST VOLUME'S COVER AS A REFERENCE FOR THE SECOND, BUT THIS ONE WAS USELESS.

TIME, AND SPACE. THE WONDERS GOD HAS GRANTED US PERSIST FOR ETERNITY. I'LL BE A BABY FOR ALL ETERNITY.

OKAY, ON THE SECOND LEVEL, SEATS D-1 THROUGH 12! SKIPPING OVER THE MIDDLE-AGED SCALPER GUY IN SEAT 13... THEN 14 THROUGH THE END—ALL YOU KITTIES BETTER GO TO HEAVEN* IN MY ROOM LATER!

@ Having a good eye is vital when you're MCing @

*note: Orgasm


ストロベリーシェイク
スイート
SWEET
2

林家志弦
SHIZURU HAYASHIYA
yh COMICS
ブルーベリーシェイク Bitter
2
林家志弦
IDC
一迅社
BLUEBERRY SHAKE Bitter
2
…たまには
激しく声出しても
いいと思うのよ
…I think
it's okay to CRY out
once in a while.
一迅社

林家志弦
SHIZURU HAYASHIYA
yh COMICS
ブルーベリーシェイク Bitter
2
林家志弦
IDC
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…たまには
激しく声出しても
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2

STRAWBERRY
SHAKE
Sweet
SHIZURU HAYASHIYA
2

STRAWBERRY SHAKE Sweet 2

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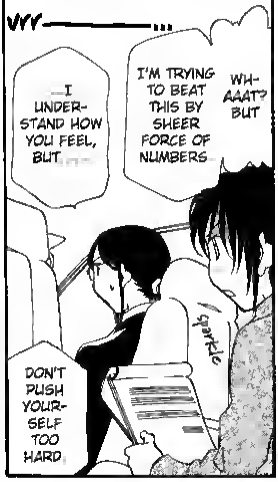
—OKAY, CUT!
OH!
THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, JULIA-CHAN
GOOD WORK!
YES! THANK YOU.
GOOD WORK, JULIA.
YEAH!
WHAT'S NEXT, SAEKI-SAN?

SO YOU HAVE A BIT OF TIME FREE...
REALLY? I HAVE SOME FREE TIME?
Let's see...
NEXT IS—
A RADIO RECORDING THIS AFTERNOON, THEN AFTER THAT, A MEETING FOR A VARIETY SHOW.
—How much time has passed since that day?
...THAT, AGAIN?
Hi check my e-mail too
Yeah
Right!
I'LL GO TAKE A QUICK LOOK THROUGH THE REPORTS, THEN.
I've been swamped with work.
I'm going to be 18 soon
Ahhh...
HIRING THAT MANY MORE DETECTIVES ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE THE RESULTS.
...JULIA,
THAT'S QUITE A PILE YOU'VE GOT THERE,
Isn't it..?


DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.
—I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...
I'M TRYING TO BEAT THIS BY SHEER FORCE OF NUMBERS
WH-AAAT? BUT
sparkle

Ran-chan

disappeared that day.

Another day
ANY DOUBTS ABOUT THIS...
HMMM.
...for keeping at it every day
Well... good for you
...
WHAT AMAZES ME IS THAT YOU DON'T HAVE
All she left us was a letter at the office
thanking us, apologizing, and saying, "I'm going home."
WHY ARE YOU STILL SEARCHING FOR HER?
RAN-CHAN.
ABOUT WHAT, SAEKI-SAN?
HM?
thud
IF YOU'VE BEEN SEARCHING THIS LONG AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T TURNED UP ANY CLUES OR NEWS ABOUT HER, THAT PROBABLY MEANS——
OHHH
MAYBE SHE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO LOOK FOR HER AT ALL...
THAT SHE'S BEEN PREPARED FOR THIS, RIGHT?

NO, THAT CAN'T BE IT.
RAN-CHAN ISN'T LIKE THAT...
...YOU SOUND SO SURE...
WHERE ARE YOU GETTING THAT CONFI-DENCE?
Ai-ai.
BUT, BUT...
Hear me out, Saeki-san.
AROUND MY 17TH BIRTHDAY,
BOTH OF US WERE TOO BUSY TO REALLY CELEBRATE IT, SO WE PROMISED EACH OTHER
THAT WE
WOULD MAKE TIME TO CELEBRATE MY 18TH TOGETHER THIS YEAR, NO MATTER WHAT.
RAN-CHAN WOULDN'T FORGET SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE
THAT SHE WOULD DELIBERATELY LEAVE WITHOUT TELLING ME WHY, NOT WHEN WE MADE THAT SORT OF PROMISE
THIS IS RAN-CHAN WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I JUST
CAN'T WIN WITH YOU.
I thought that you would eventually give up, but
WELL, JUST DO AS YOU PLEASE
YOU'VE NEVER BEEN THE SORT TO LISTEN TO OTHER PEOPLE'S ADVICE
I tend to forget that
Whaaat? That goes without saying!
After all
I'M GOING TO BE 18 SOON.
That's
THE DRINKING AGE.
I HAVE TO FIND RAN-CHAN SOON SO I CAN ENJOY THAT FREEDOM WITH HER!!
DON'T EXPECT ME TO JUMP IN WITH ANY MORE PUNCHLINES ONCE YOU TURN 18. I HOPE YOU'RE READY.
This year's Beaujolais is very red....!
Ugh...

"NO MATTER WHAT THEIR SITUATION, GIRLS LIVE FOR GIRLS."
I'VE REALIZED THAT THE YURI PATH CONSISTS OF DYING☆
—I SEE YOU'VE STILL GOT AN ADMIRABLE SPIRIT
YOU'LL NEED THAT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET ANYWHERE
Long time no see, little kitty.
But I like the plain-Jane cameo here!
Geez! You're always—
.....
.....
ZLAY-SAN
....
HEY, WAIT, WHAT'S A SUPERSTAR LIKE YOU DOING IN A FAMILY RESTAU-RANT...?
I don't think that's a good idea...

*note: A takeoff on Tsunetomo Yamamoto's words "I've realized that Bushido consists of dying."

Ugh...
. . You came over to make snide remarks, after all this time. . ?
It was never official anyway
and we apologized over and over for it
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU LOOKING CHEERFUL AND HORNY
Right?
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE YOU TURNED DOWN THE MUSIC VIDEO OFFER.
IT'S BEEN AROUND EIGHT MONTHS, MAYBE?

ONCE SHE HAS HER SIGHTS SET ON SOMETHING, SHE NEVER LETS IT GET AWAY
OUR PRESIDENT'S GOT GUTS, AND SHE'S INCREDIBLY PERSISTENT
Out with it!
What does that woman have to do with Asakawa?!
A superhuman investigation
SO SHE INVESTIGATED ASAKAWA-SAN IN HER OWN PARTICULAR WAY ..
AND CAME UP WITH THAT PERSON
!
?
WHAT IS IT...?
TODAY'S SCHEDULE... FOR THE FINAL BOSS YOU'LL HAVE TO FACE
I think she's in a film in a studio right now
DON'T WORRY, THAT WAS JUST A SIMPLE GREETING.
THIS IS WHY I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
Whip

ASAKAWA-SAN WAS DROPPED AT HER REQUEST ALONE
IT'S NO WONDER SHE WAS HARD TO TRACK DOWN—
SHE'S A BIG-NAME ACTRESS, AND EVEN HER HISTORY ABROAD IS STILL A COMPLETE MYSTERY.
AND IT WAS PROBABLY—
.....!
Huuuh?
THEY'RE GONE.
HOW CLICHE
stuck us with the check
They even
stole
YOU! SHOULD BE VERY GRATE-FUL—
RYOU.
RYOU.
KNOCK THREE PEOPLE DOWN AND THROW FIVE PEOPLE DOWN TO GET THAT INFORMATION.
WELL,
APPAR-ENTLY, THE PRESIDENT HAD TO
At the end she threw all her fanatic managers down too just like that

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO, JULIA?!
HEY...!
DMPDMP DMP DMP DM
WAIT,
THAT'S CRAZY! THINK OF WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH... YOU NEED TO TAKE A MINUTE TO CALM DOWN AND...
We should go to the meeting first before we do this!
Ask her where Ran-chan is, of course!
What am I planning to do?!
WHEEZE
PANT
WHEEZE
IT'S RAN-RAN!!!
TAXI
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S CRAZY!!
—It makes sense, if you consider her image.
to hide the fact that Asakawa-san is her daughter.
And it was probably

click
click
click
click
GOOD WORK TODAY.
OOTORI-SAN!
You were incredible!
THANKS.
Good work.
I'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK
NO.6
Ootori Shizuka.
The knowledge that she had a child with a foreigner while she was studying abroad
could only hurt her image.
Vrrr
PANT PANT
WHEEZE
GASP
Dying
RAN-CHAN
PANT
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
SO THAT'S WHAT HAP-PENED

That's why she was alone
She came to Japan on her own,
for how long?
I had no idea.
lived on her own...

But
SHE NEVER ONCE MENTIONED HER MOTHER
I DO KNOW ONE THING FOR CERTAIN—
SHE NEVER WANTED TO BE A BURDEN ON HER MOTHER
Just loving her was enough for me.
I didn't know anything about her.
Ran-chan—
Ranran
Just..
Y-yes, ma'am !!
Huh?!
SMACK
GUSH
STEP ON IT, DRIVER!
Waaaaaaaaah!

click..
clack
click
clack
click
!

wheeze
OOTORI-SAN,
GOOD MORNING.
pant pant pant
Giving her the typical industry greeting, first.
pant
Pant
.....
Whoa! That's Ikuman's mom gor- jor ya—geous!
...ARE YOU TACHIBANA-SAN? FROM FUJI'S MONDAY NIGHT SLOT*?
MORNING.
OFF TO DO A SHOOT?
*note: Fuji TV shows drama series on Monday nights at 9 PM
PLEASE
GIVE RAN-CHAN BACK!
.....
Sigh...

...You didn't have to tell her that!!
Hey!
That manager squealed to the head of Salamander*
Point
Eeeep!
*Z LAY's office
...I'M SURPRISED
YOU FOUND ME...
Sigh
MY PROTECTIONS SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPENETRABLE...
...'TWAS NOTHING
WELL, NOW THAT YOU KNOW, THERE'S NOTHING FOR IT. BUT THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW
FIRST OF ALL,
I'M NOT LETTING RAN GO BACK INTO SHOW BIZ...
B-but
Um
SHE STANDS OUT, SO PEOPLE WOULD EVENTUALLY DISCOVER HER BACKGROUND
I CAN'T THROW MY CAREER AWAY JUST FOR HER
I EXPLAINED THIS ALL TO HER CLEARLY, AND SHE RETIRED FROM THE INDUSTRY

PRICKLE
Wait?
...WHAT A HASSLE THIS ALL IS...
SHE NEVER LACKED FOR FREEDOM, AND YET SHE HAD TO COME HERE AND MAKE TROUBLE FOR ME...
WHAT SORT OF DAUGHTER DOES THAT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HER FATHER ALLOWED IT. MAYBE IT WAS A DIG AT ME.
THOUGHTLESSLY DECIDES TO FOLLOW SOME SCOUT AND BE A WANNABE ACTRESS
—AND WHAT DOES SHE DO?
I GRANTED HER WISH, AS HER MOTHER.
WHEN SHE SAID SHE WANTED TO GO TO SCHOOL HERE IN JAPAN,

SHE CAME HERE TO GET IN MY WAY.
"Before that, I spent all my time doing nothing."
"I've been having so much fun"
"since I met you."
I ended up entering this world, and—..."
.....
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN HER INTENTION ALL ALONG.
IT WAS A STROKE OF LUCK FOR HER THAT YOUR OFFICE PICKED HER UP.

WELL,
I TRUST YOU UNDERSTAND
THAT YOUR DISCRETION IS REQUIRED IN THIS MATTER, TACHIBANA-SAN
Excuse me.
YOUR CAREER DEPENDS ON IT, IN FACT——
RAN-CHAN——

You're completely off the mark,

you stupid parent.

I don't care any-more.
gl
int
and anyway,
Restrain yourself! You have to restrain yourself—...
grab
Julia, wait..!
HUH ...?
start
HUH——?!!!
Right.
leave any marks.....
so you at least don't
rustle..
DMP..
YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELVES BANNED FROM THE INDUSTRY ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS?!!
VIOLENCE ...?
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
Hey..!

Huuuu-uuh?!!
I don't care if you let her go back into show biz or not!!
Like I care, moron!!
bam
I'm telling you to give Ran-chan back to ME!!
storm
...YOU'RE GOING ON AND ON ABOUT STUFF I NEVER EVEN ASKED ABOUT...
...MY CAREER?
GETTING BANNED FROM THE INDUSTRY ...?
storm
storm
fine with me

AGHH
I COULDN'T GO DRINKING WITH RANRAN!
IF I LET A LITTLE THING LIKE GETTING BANNED SCARE ME,
Julia made full use of 42 joint locks (without leaving any marks)—
URK...
HEY, JULIA, YOU SHOULDN'T GO TOO FAR...
SHE IS HER MOTHER, YOU KNOW! SHE'S RAN-CHAN'S MOTHER...!
craaack
Eeeeeek! Ootori-san—!!
Just hold down that manager over there, Saeki-san!
she put her career on the line and managed to determine Ran's whereabouts.
But
because it involved a weakness of Ootori Shizuka's, the whole matter was hushed up.
The next day.
Oh, nothing serious.
creak
creak
creak
crk
Ootori-san, what's wrong?
And so—
I DON'T THINK I'M FORGETTING ANYTHING.
HMM,

the following week...
ring
ring
ring
A phone call
HM?
beep
Hello?
Yes,
OH, SAEKI-SAN.
rattle
shhhhh
I'll be back before my vacation time is over!
rattle
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE FINE FLYING ON MY OWN!
WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?
HER FATHER'S ADDRESS?
YES, I HAVE IT WRITTEN DOWN AND IN MY CELL PHONE.
I'M HANGING UP NOW. I HAVE TO GO.
bam
I'm coming for you!
WAIT FOR ME, RAN-CHAN...!
RIGHT, THEN!
Apparently,
Ran-chan was sent back to live with her father in America.

But he's a very busy man, so they aren't actually living together.
CHIRP
CHIRP
It sounds like he doesn't even care whether she's with him or not.
CHIRP
HE WON'T MIND
IF I TAKE HER, THEN
I have every right to.
WHIRR
WHIRRR
Ran-chan is my life, my wife*, well anyway—
I need her.
note: A reference to a rice cooker commercial! My rice, my wife, my life.

Ra-
...Ran-chan ...?
What're you doing ...?
Why are... you running away?
Wait
D-
DELIVERING NEWSPAPERS..
THIS WAS THE ONLY LIVE-IN JOB I COULD FIND...
So, she's been here this whole time.
It's her.
Moving away
WHOOSH!
I WAS PLANNING TO GO BACK TO MY DAD'S PLACE...
BUT I KEPT THINKING TO MYSELF, "JUST A LITTLE LONGER, JUST A LITTLE LONGER," SO IT KEPT GETTING PUT OFF...
UH...
Umm,
...nd the person who usually does this area has a cold or something, so I'm pinch-hitting today. I guess I had no idea you'd be free this early in the morning today of all days

.....
.....
YOU'VE BEEN DOING THAT THIS WHOLE TIME.
ALL ON YOUR OWN--?
I ALREADY FILED MY TRANSFER FORM WITH THE SCHOOL AND EVERY-THING.
HUH ---?
Uh,
YES, WELL ..
WEREN'T YOU LONELY
ON YOUR OWN?
OH! NO,
I'M PRETTY USED TO IT--
Sh
She's med
she's med
NO,

WEREN'T YOU LONELY WITHOUT ME?
GA——H
I WASN'T
NO.
Huh?
Got Really
.....
OH...
CAUSE
...BUT AFTER THE WAY I DISAPPEARED...
I COULDN'T TOUCH YOU, OR HEAR YOUR VOICE...
IT WAS MORE HARD THAN LONELY MAYBE
and after so much time had gone by
...I'M SORRY
...Ohhh...
so I could at least see you if I staked it out
I knew your route home
I knew a good viewpoint to watch your veranda from and the convenience store you always go to
Fidget
Fidget
Fidg
I UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY. I USED TO DO THAT ALL THE TIME TOO
A stalking couple

I FORGIVE YOU.
I FORGIVE YOU FOR EVERYTHING,
JUST LET ME TOUCH YOU ALREADY!
WHOOSH
LEAVING ME FOR EIGHT MONTHS...
WERE YOU TRYING TO KILL ME?!!
Anyway, I love you so much,
I think it's gonna kill me—with or without you.
JULIA-SA-
Anyway...
sob

That's what you are to me.

And there's no way I'm going to share you with anyone.

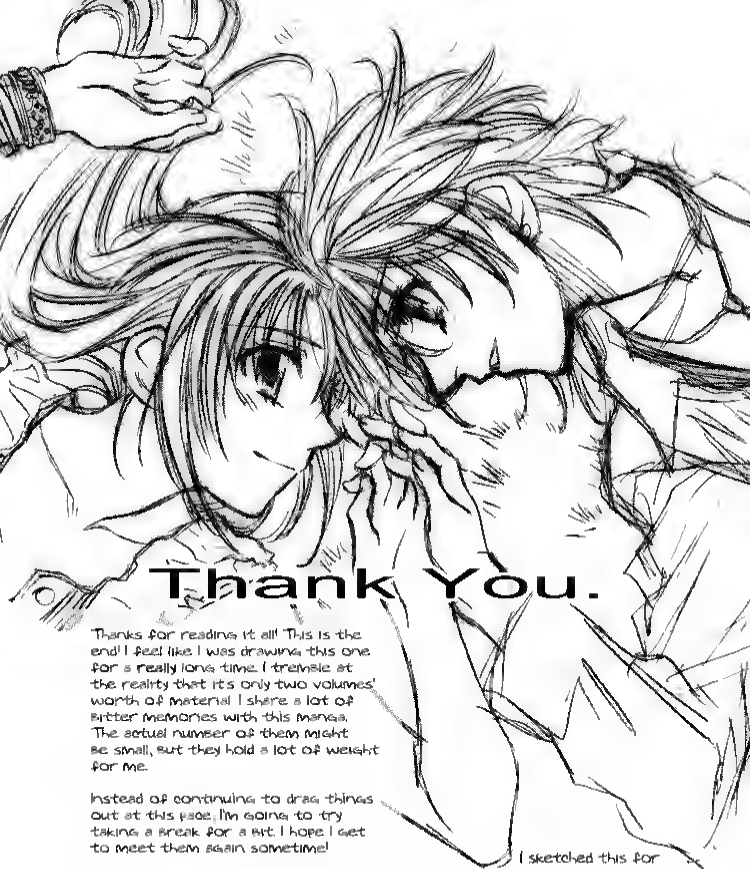
—...

"There's actually a little bit more."

WHAT SONG IS THAT LINE FROM?

Stop making so much noise first thing in the morning

That's not a song



Thanks for reading it all! This is the end! I feel like I was drawing this one for a really long time. I tremble at the reality that it's only two volumes' worth of material I share a lot of bitter memories with this manga. The actual number of them might be small, but they hold a lot of weight for me.

Instead of continuing to drag things out at this pace, I'm going to try taking a break for a bit. I hope I get to meet them again sometime!

Thankee! Please just imagine the sex scenes on your own! (I couldn't picture them.) I've learned that when the characters are too stupid, it's really hard to take the story in that direction.

I sketched this for one of the magazine covers, but ended up trashing it and going with something else instead

Until we meet again.
Hayashiya Shizuru 2009

✿My "like a rolling stone" assistant Makise Ren✿
✿Thanks for your help with references, M-sama and S-noppe-chin!✿
To all the yuri fans reading this Tankoooo!! Yuri yuriiin!

FIRST PRINTED IN *COMIC YURI HIME* VOLUMES 3-5, 6-14
THIS VOLUME

Company president

IS SO RELAXING
Phew
STOPPING ALL THOUGHT PROCESSES
They're still a pair of lovebirds,
Oh, geez! Sure but that's almost like getting married right?
Ehehe. Maybe!
but their guardian has stopped her commentary.

blaurgh—
Before long, they're living together.
I HAVEN'T BEEN SLEEPING LATELY...
I'M SORRY, SERA-SAN...
Will you be okay to start shooting u.u tomorrow...?
...YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD, ASAKAWA-SAN...
...How do I go beyond kissing with her, Sera-san...?
All right then.
I'D BE HAPPY TO GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE, IF YOU THINK I CAN HELP..
...ARE YOU HAVING SOME SORT OF PROBLEM LIVING WITH HER?

I'M TRYING AND TRYING, BUT I JUST CAN'T BECOME AN ADULT
NO, JUST THE OPPO-SITE...
...YOU'RE BECOMING AN ADULT ALARMINGLY QUICKLY, ASAKAWA-SAN...
C'mon, just take your clothes off already
WHAT NAIVE WORRIES SHE HAS
Oh...
Wait, Rena-chan, Eek!
I have to be up early tomorrow.
In my case it's more like...
Sera is exhausted for the opposite reason.
BUT THEN BOTH OF US END UP TENSING UP
WE GET A GOOD MOOD GOING EVERY TIME.
Oh no, you go ahead
Go ahead
WE END UP JUST SPENDING THE WHOLE NIGHT SITTING ON THE BED FACING EACH OTHER...
ASAKAWA-SAN! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN! YOU'RE SHOUTING!
HEY...
If we could just do it once, I could stop agonizing over iiiit!!!
..Argh!
You really are an adult now!
SMACK

Meanwhile, her other half...
Sigh
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SAEKI-SAN?
I DON'T THINK ANYTHING.
Good work!
...HEY,
I THINK WE'LL BE FINE ONCE WE MANAGE TO DO IT ONCE...
But
WELL, ...
I GUESS THERE'S NO RUSH—
WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST ENJOY WHATEVER WE CAN DO RIGHT NOW
WE'LL BECOME ADULTS ALL ON OUR OWN AS WE GET OLDER.
AND ONCE THAT HAPPENS—
Good work!

WE'LL BE ABLE TO USE ALL SORTS OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES.
AGE ISN'T GOING TO HELP WITH THAT!
Yeah!
hop

Lots and lots? We haven't even done it once yet...
Y-yes, I'll do my best!
Huh?!
Let's try our best to do it tonight!!!
It turns out we do need experience points!
Ran-ran!!!
We need lots and lots of experience.
They ended up sitting on the bed all night again.
Plus this is frustrating!

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

コミック 百合姫

平成18年3月1日発行
月刊コミックゼロサム
3月号増刊
WINTER 2006
定価880円(税込)
VOL.3

表紙イラスト
ひびき玲音

吐息が触れ合う距離に貴女を感じる

特別企画
コミックス発売記念!!
ストロベリージェイクSweet
林家志弦

アニメ化記念!!
先着プレゼント
百合コスメ
4色アイシャドウ

アニメ化企画に先駆けコミック登場!!
Simoun
原作・制作協力:スクウェア・エニックス
ドラマCD収録決定記念も特別掲載
初恋姉妹

南国少女
おとみるく
藤

三
cut

蔵王大志+影木栄貴

月刊コミックセロリ6月号増刊

コミック百合姫

SPRING 2006
VOL.4
¥880円(税込)

藤枝雅

咸王大志&影木栄貴

【夏デレジア学園入学案内】

小日向遊

香温もい高鳴る鼓動

CHIRAN

日暮早夜

林家志弦

南国ばなな

平成18年6月1日発行
月刊コミックゼロサム9月号増刊

コミック 百合姫

SUMMER 2006
VOL.5 定価880円(税込)

表紙イラスト
ひびき玲音

巻頭カラー作品が豪華

特別ふろく
飴色紅茶館
歓談
小田子

金田一蓮十郎
「マーメイドライン」

星野リリィ

南国ばっ
林家志弦
CHIRAN
蔵王大志+藤末栄音

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

平成19年3月1日発行
月刊コミックゼロサム3月号増刊

コミック 百合姫 Yuri Hime

VOL.7
2007

表紙イラスト ひびき玲音

特製ミニアルバム

ふろくの豪華版

のぞき見注意シール

ALL LOVE コンプリート

林家志弦

【ストロベリーシェイクドッグ】

硝音あや

極楽院櫻子

★初登場★ 胸キュン PIN-UP

藤枝雅

南国はなな

金田一蓮十郎

タカハシマコ
CHI-RAN
Zひより
南方純
東雲水生
原島朝子
神田めぐ
城之内美

to HARUNA

蔵王大志+影木栄貴

ついにシリーズ完結!? 待望のコミックスも4月発売予定★【逆襲のアカスキンチャン】

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

平成19年6月1日発行
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コミック 百合姫 Yuri Hime

コミックゆりひめ

初登場!! 美麗ピンナップ

水城せとな。

COVER ILLUSTRATION
蔵王大志

彼女たちの仕事は

硝音あや
[Epitaph]

武若丸

ホントにいいの!?

二人の恋愛

連載

十月
本家志弦
藤枝雅

描き下ろし

『春夏秋冬』着せ替えカバー

蔵王大志

トラウマ○○の○○さんにボンネ厨、立ちバ○○だと『春夏秋冬』声優ガチプルトーク

田村ゆかり×新谷良子
能登麻美子×川澄綾子
川上とも子×那須めぐみ

応募者全員に「春夏秋冬」組員カード2枚組をお届け★コミックス連動サービス企画

男子禁制！少女とケモノの禁愛コミック

月刊コミックゼロサム8月号増刊

コミック百合姫

SUMMER 2007
VOL.9
コミック百合姫
定価880円(税込)

初登場 ★リリカルPOP
ホトさくら

妄想暴走LOVEコメディ急展開!!
林家志弦
[ストロベリーシェイクSweet]

硝音あや
[EPITAPH]

金田一蓮十郎
[マーメイドライン]

乙ひより
[恋の秘密]

武若丸
[紅蓮]

タカ
弓田めぐ
東雲氷生
南方純
城之内寧々
CHIRAI
森島明子
かずまこ

百合姫二人のは

特別寄稿
木下さくら
江戸屋ぽち
林家志弦

巻頭カラー新連載

和風伝奇PS2ゲーム フレストーリー・コミック版

『アオイシロ』
☆麓川智之 ☆江戸屋ぽち
青い城の円舞曲

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

平成19年12月1日発行
月刊コミックセロリアム12月号増刊

Yuri Hime

百合姫

AUTUMN 2007
VOL.10
定価880円(税込)

応募者全員サービス
2008年★卓上カレンダー
ポストカード全12点

本誌初登場★LOVEきゅん新連載
水野透子
紅葉も恥じらう

金田一蓮十郎
林家志弦
東雲水生
武若丸
南国はなな
タカハシマコ
袴田めら
森島明子
かすまこを
南方純
城之内亨々

巻頭カラー
乙ひより
[クローバー]
大人気ゴシックロマンス
硝音あや
[EPITAPH]
コミックス第2弾12月に発売!!
CHI-RAN
[秘宮少女]
表紙イラスト使用の特製付録&もちろんコミック連載も♪
藤枝雅
[絶色紅茶館歓談]
特別掲載 クリアファイル

私と貴女の蕾★

★★和風伝奇コミカライズ第2回★★
アオイシロ
―青い城の円舞曲―
原作:瀬川智之 漫画:江戸屋ぽち

男子禁制！少女と少女のための恋愛コミック

コミック 百合姫

WINTER 2008
VOL.11
定価880円(税込)
3月号

特別付録 小冊子 64p Petit 百合姫

百合姫S
百合姫 Wild rose

3誌作品ひの
ギャグ&コメディ

表紙に百合コミック作
三浦しをん
[百合の花粉は落ちにくい]
(cut 星野リリィ)

小説伝奏カライズ
アオイシロ
青い城の円舞曲
作 [illegible]
画 江[illegible]

武若弟二
東雲水生

甘い恋にな～あれ♪

めっちゃLoveな
特選4コマ
藤枝雅
林家志弦
南国ばなな
タカハシマコ
CHI-RAN かすまこ
城之内ミク々 花津ゆや 椋田ぬ
森島明子 乙ひより 南方純 [illegible]

巻頭カラー連載
和風ハーレム百合LoveStory
Sweet Peach!
スイートピーチ
水野透子×千手ちゆ

表紙イラスト&連載
待望のコミックス第①巻は3月発売予定!!
硝音あや
[EPITAPH]

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

平成20年(月1回)発行(3・6・9・12月1日発行)
第1種郵便物認可

コミック百合姫

SPRING 2008
VOL.12
定価880円(税込)
6月号

左近堂絵里 樹要 特製ポーチ付!

第1巻完売御礼!! 増刷カラー

硝音あや [EPITAPH]

こっちおいでよ未知の楽園へ…!!

日輪早夜

林家志弦

乙ひより

水野遙子+千手ちゆ
藤枝雅
南国はなな
タカハシマコ
東雲水生 椋田めら かすまこを
南方純 城之内宰々 森島明子 江戸屋ぽ

久組イノスト&再始

待望のコミックス第1巻は7月発売予定!

武若丸 [紅蓮紀]

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のトキメキの純愛コミック

コミック

百合姫

SUMMER 2008
VOL.13
定価880円(税込)
9月号

❶作家直筆イラスト入りサイン色紙プレゼント
総勢20名!!

❷オトナの百合コミック
小椋子 Petit Wildrose
森島明子・三国ハヂメの描き下ろし携帯コミック
2本立て特別収録☆

今年3周年突入マネ企画

もっといい汗かきなさい? これから

乙ひより

ローハン
野逢子
CHIRAI
戸屋ほた
かずまこを
城之内亭々
東雲水生
将田めら
森島明子
花倉やや
道満羽柴
南方純

藤枝雅
硝音あや
タカハシマコ

南国ばなな
武若丸

三角しなん

二人の恋はゴール間近!?
表紙イラスト&大好評連載

林家志弦

【ストロベリーシェイクSweet】

男子禁制!! 少女と少女のヒミツの純愛コミック

平成20年12月1日発行(3・5号 12月1日発行)
第1巻第4号 通巻4号

コミック 百合姫

AUTUMN 2008
VOL.14
定価880円(税込)
12月号

藤枝雅
[紅色紅茶館放課]

2009年 特製 百合姫カレンダー 応募者全員サービス

乙ひより
水無遥子・千手ちゆ
ロッ原フリコ
花染やや
かずまこを
東雲水生
CHI-RAN
青山あると
椎間めら
南方純
城之内東☆
夏海
コミックス[半熟女子]第0巻発売中!

森島明子
[半熟女子]

武若丸
[紅茶館]

南国ばなな
[ときめき☆もののけ]

背中に感じるあなたの鼓動

初登場★キウ子のクールライフ

藤白

まと美いの
ふたりの恋がついにクライマックス!!

林家志弦
[ストロベリーシェイクSweet]

DVD発売中!! 大絶賛 百合アニ☆

百合つこ意見板